



£500k BID TO REVAMP CANAL

Report by Jamie Brassington

AN HISTORIC stretch of canal in Halesowen could be given a new lease of life after campaigners launched an ambitious £500,000 restoration bid.

The Halesowen Abbey Trust has drawn up plans to restore the Lapal Canal in Halesowen and re-connect it to existing canal routes in the Black Country.

Lapal Canal fell into disrepair following a failed attempt to restore the route in the 1990s.

Trust chairman Mick Freer said the plans could cost up to £500,000 but would 'return it to its former glory'.

He explained: "The canal went into disuse when a tunnel network that starts in Halesowen collapsed in 1910. In the 1950s the Halesowen Borough Council restored the canal and used it for boating and fishing.

"What we are trying to do is restore the canal and return it back to its former glory. Roy Burgess, a founding member of Halesowen Abbey Trust, will be leading the restoration. Roy has a keen interest in canals.

"The canal was a wonderful amenity. The restoration will make the site a haven for wildlife. We will also get a rowing boat on there."

Network
Mr Freer estimated around a mile stretch of the canal would need to be restored to be linked up with the existing canal network that surrounds Halesowen. Clay would also need to be re-laid on the canal path to make it watertight.

"The council can't afford to fund the project, so registered charities need to be helping out," added Mr Freer.

He said the trust will need to source funding to pay for the project but if there were a public appetite for the project they could put the wheels in motion.

The canal is situated above Leasowes Park on an embankment.

The trust say once the restoration is complete boating and fishing will once again be able to return to the site.

Part of the restoration work would see the stretch of canal, also called the Dudley No. 2 Canal, reconnected to the greater network in the Black Country.

Mr Freer said the canal could be extended in both directions as part of the scheme.

The section of canal from Mucklow Hill was cut off when the Lapal tunnel became impassable in 1922.

Pleasure boats ran on the stretch until the 1940s but it was reduced to fishing only in the 1960s and damaged in the 1990s by dredging works.

Anyone who wants to share their views on the plans can contact Mr Freer via email mick.freer@leasoweswalledgarden.co.uk

PEDAL POWER TO HELP MEDICS BATTLE CANCER



Cancer survivor Darren Hancox and his sister Nicola Hancox-Parkes with participants in at the start of the sponsored cycle ride

A GRATEFUL family have taken to their bikes to thank medical staff for helping two relatives cope with cancer.

Window cleaner Darren Hancox, his brother-in-law Ryan Parkes and eight friends cycled 50 miles round the canals of the Black Country to raise over £1,000 for Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley and Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Nicola Hancox-Parkes, 39-year-old sister of Darren and wife of Ryan, organised the fundraiser and waved off cyclists from the Samson and Lion pub in Brierley Hill on Saturday.

She explained: "We feared the worst when Darren was diagnosed with testicular cancer some years ago but he has made a complete recovery thanks to the doctors and nurses.

"Our father Derek survived bowel and mouth cancer for 12 years. This was against the odds but also due to the skill of those treating him.

Precious

"Unfortunately he died aged 72 when the mouth cancer returned but those extra years had been very precious."

Nicola, from Brierley Hill, added: "You hear too much about people dying from cancer and not enough about those who survive.

"I thought it was about time we celebrated the survivors while raising money to say thank you to the hospitals involved and assist them in helping sufferers in future."

Ryan, a 48-year-old father of two, said: "The medical staff work wonders. The ride will be good for our fitness and hopefully good for their finances. There could not be a better cause. People did their bit for me when I was ill and so I am delighted to do my bit."

WEATHER

Flash floods and lightning strikes

FLASH floods and thunderstorms returned to the Black Country with roads swamped and homes hit by lightning.

Three houses were struck in Upper Gornal during the height of the storms on Tuesday afternoon. Two people were taken to hospital. Roads in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Smethwick were left facing a repeat of last week's floods, with some Metro and rail services cancelled.

Buses were diverted via Oldbury Ring Way and West Bromwich Street due to flooding outside Sandwell and Dudley station.

REFERENDUM

Leave or Remain debate over the EU

SEDGLEY councillor and UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge will speak for the Leave campaign and Stourbridge Conservative MP Margot James for Remain in a EU referendum debate hosted by TV presenter Bob Hall at The Wilson Hall in Cradley on Monday from 7.30pm.

The EU-wide debate has been brought to Cradley by one of its own residents.

Kevin Powis said he wanted to create a platform where both sides could be heard and challenged.

TRAVELLERS

Park invaded as 50 caravans roll on

TRAVELLERS moved onto a park in Halesowen, just as nearby residents were planning a street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Around 50 caravans set up camp at Hurst Green Park, Shell Corner, on Saturday evening after bushes were removed and a concrete bin ripped out of the way.

Councillor Stuart Henley, who represents the Halesowen North Ward, said: "This is the highest amount of travellers we have had on there. We have spent a fortune trying to secure it and we thought we had cured it. The council is in the process of issuing an order to get them removed."

INSIDE

MURDER CASE REVELATIONS



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Terror threat leads to holiday fine

A COUPLE from Kingswinford were fined £240 after taking their son on holiday during term time – even though the trip had to be rearranged due to a terror attack.

Debbie Proudler and husband Lee had booked to take sons Lewis, 13, and Ellis, 10, to Egypt's Sharm El Sheikh resort, but the holiday was cancelled in the wake of an ISIS bomb attack on a Russian holiday jet.

Holbeach Travel rearranged it for another Egyptian destination. But the Stourbridge-based firm had to fly the family out a day earlier than originally planned, to Hurgada rather than Sharm.

Initially, Lewis and Ellis were set to miss four days of the last week of the Christmas term but

under the new plans actually missed the whole school week. While both boys' schools approved the original break, Blanford Mere Primary in Kingswinford – where Ellis goes – refused to authorise a fifth day.

Mrs Proudler said: "We would have lost thousands of pounds by cancelling the holiday but the school couldn't see that the terrorism threat level was a reason for Ellis to be authorised for a day of absence. I was told to send a letter to the governors, but it took so long to be seen to, that Lee and I then had our original £60 fines doubled to £240.

"The letter also claimed that Ellis does not attend school regularly but he has a 93 per cent attendance record."

Mr Proudler said the couple did pay the fine.

"We have paid it. We obviously weren't happy about it as it wasn't our fault," he said.

Nikkit Miller, head teacher at the school, said: "Good attendance in school is vital for an all-round education. These national rules are set by Government and apply to all schools up and down the country.

"The rules make it impossible for us to agree for children to have time off during school term, unless there are exceptional circumstances, which does not include family holidays. The vast majority of parents at the school share our vision for making the education of children through regular attendance a top priority."

Pupils let home early to watch England game

A SCHOOL in the Black Country is letting its pupils go home early to watch England take on Wales in Euro 2016 – despite the national furore surrounding term-time absences.

Summerhill School in Kingswinford will run a 'consolidated' school day today (Thursday) as the neighbouring nations battle it out in France.

It appears the Lodge Lane school will be the only one in the Dudley borough planning the change because of the big match.

Ben Warren, headteacher at Summerhill School, said: "At Summerhill we think it's important to listen to our students and offer them a fully-rounded educational experience which strikes a healthy balance between work and play.

Popularity

"In light of the anticipated popularity of the England game we have decided to run a consolidated day, as we have done in the past on occasions such as the last day of term, to allow our children to receive a full quota of lessons and still have time to make it home to watch the match with their family and friends.

"By omitting lunch and shortening each of the six lessons in the day by 10 minutes, we are able to finish the school day at 1.10pm rather than 3.15pm.

"We informed all parents of this change three weeks ago and they've been very supportive. The school will remain open in the afternoon for any pupils who wish to remain for supervised study, but we anticipate that all 1,000 of our pupils will be working with extra diligence in the morning so that they can enjoy a patriotic afternoon watching the game."

Their decision comes after a school in Southampton reversed plans to allow pupils to go home to watch the match following criticism and claims of hypocrisy by term-time holiday campaigners.

Councillor Patrick Harley, of Kingswinford South Ward, said: "It should be down to the head teachers in what they feel best to do. The Euros only come every four years and with it being against Wales it is a unique event and we expect to do well. But ultimately each individual school should make the best decision for them."

Relax and rock back to the 1980s



Hair raising fun from Amanda Taylor and Nicola Taylor of Stourbridge at the nostalgic 80s concert

BIG hair, Relax T-shirts and the odd Michael Jackson lookalike – the eighties came back with a bang to Sandwell.

Some 7,000 festival-goers flocked to Sandwell Valley Park to turn back time – and to enjoy the sounds of 12 of the biggest names in the eighties pop scene. Frankie Goes to Hollywood's Holly Johnson, ABC, Kim Wilde and Band Aid co-founder Midge Ure were among acts that took to the stage at the West Bromwich park.

Festival goers embraced the spirit in an array of bright eighties style clothing, wigs and fancy dress.

Kicking off the party at around noon were Doctor and The Medics – best known for Spirit in the Sky – followed by boy band Brother Beyond. Next up were Altered Images fronted by actress Clare Grogan.

Five Star wowed the growing crowd and Nick Heyward included hits from his days with Haircut 100, such as Fantastic Day. I Think We're Alone Now star Tiffany was

followed by former Bronski Beat and Communards frontman Jimmy Somerville, Go West, ex-Ultravox frontman Midge Ure and ABC, who opened with crowd pleaser Poison Arrow. Rain started to pour but that did not stop the party atmosphere as the crowd enjoyed penultimate act Kim Wilde.

But the rain eased just in time for the headline act, Holly Johnson, who met a roar of approval for hits including Relax, Two Tribes and The Power Of Love.

On-the-spot fines tackle fly-tipping in borough

PEOPLE who fly-tip in Dudley will be forced to pay on-the-spot fines.

The council's crackdown on fly-tipping has escalated after bosses agreed to bring in new fixed penalty notices.

On-the-spot fines of up to £200 could now be dished out to 'small scale' fly-tippers after the decision by council bosses.

Cabinet member for environmental services Hilary Bills said she hoped the new fines would act as a deterrent to those who blight the borough with piles of rubbish.

Councillor Bills said: "This means that instead of having to take people to court we can now issue the fines straight away. It's helpful that we can get it done straight away.

"Whatever gets thrown on the pavement – whether it's dog doo or a fridge – it causes a cost to the council and that's a cost the council cannot really afford in these difficult financial times. It's not the council's fault people fly-tip – it's just poor behaviour."

A council report states: "This new legal power will... tackle the problem of small scale fly-tipping without the drawn out process of taking an individual to court. This will be a more rapid and cost-effective way of dealing with this type of offence, it will also work as a deterrent."

The fines follow the authority launching an innovative stencilling scheme to spray warning messages about the consequences. The warning on the pavement is not permanent, washing off over time.

Praise for workers who help the deaf

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris praised staff and volunteers who work with deaf people.

Conservative MP Mr Morris visited Sandwell Deaf Community Association to chat with workers and service users and look at facilities at the centre in Daggar Lane. It offers support to more than 200 people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment.

Mr Morris said: "I was really impressed with the dedication and commitment of those who make the Sandwell Deaf Community Association a local success."

Trustee Penny Clarke, said: "It was a great opportunity for the staff, volunteers, members of the deaf community and the trustees to have a chance to talk with Mr Morris about our work."

Town hall concert by '80s soul singer

AMERICAN soul singer Alexander O'Neal, who had a top ten hit with Criticize in 1987, will be in concert at Dudley Town Hall on December 9.

Tickets cost from £30 to £27.50 and available from www.dudley.gov.uk/en entertainment or on (01384) 812812.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Play area at zoo gets £5k revamp

DUDLEY Zoo's young visitors can let off steam, thanks to some new play equipment. The £5,500 apparatus, created by Chester-based Creative Play UK, is located by Lion Ridge and Lemur Wood and features a toddler train and safari Jeep. There is also a noughts and crosses playboard and a whizzwheel alongside the current wooden climbing frame.

Zoo manager Matt Lewis said: "We know it will be well used as all the playgrounds across the 40-acre site are very popular."

Poems highlight the local dialect

A BOOK and DVD which has been produced as part of a project to celebrate the dialect of the Black Country will be launched next month.

The launch event for Where's Our Spake Gone? will be at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre in Tipton Road on July 2 from 1pm to 4pm.

The project received Heritage Lottery funding to record the way people speak in Tipton, Gornal, Oldbury and Cradley Heath.

Black Country poet Liz Berry will be reading her poems at the event.

Leading man is needed for play

A WEST Bromwich amateur drama society is hunting for a male actor to step in to a lead role after the original actor had to pull out.

The Charlemont Drama Society will be hosting the Cheshire Cat at the Gayton Road Community Centre in November, a comedy about a group of women and one man who take part in the London Moonwalk marathon.

Those interested in the role should call Steph Agger on 07872 597734.

Football fans hoping to taste Euro Glory

A BLACK Country brewery has created a special ale for the Euro 2016 football championships.

Glory Glory goes out this week to Holden's Brewery's pubs across the Black Country.

The 4.3 per cent strength amber ale has been created at the brewery in Sedgley Road, Woodsetton.

The brewery hopes it will encourage supporters of England, Wales and Northern Ireland to watch matches in their pubs.

Last chance for art

THIS weekend marks the last opportunities to view an exhibition by one of the region's oldest art groups, at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley. The Easel Club was originally founded by artist Edmund Watson in 1879. The exhibition ends at 4pm on Sunday. It's free admission.

Garage bosses unite against thieves



Raiders at Midlands Motor Care, Lye

GARAGES across Dudley borough have lost thousands of pounds of stock during a spate of break-ins and are now planning to work together to improve security at their businesses. More than 25 garages have been targeted in the past four months with an estimated £200,000 of equipment being stolen. No arrests have yet been made. Some car garage owners have been forced to increase security in the wake of the thefts. Business owner Dave Newton, a franchisee of Snap-on tools based

in Brierley Hill, estimated around £10,000 worth of gear has been stolen from each business. He said: "At least 26 businesses who I trade with have been affected in the area. "The thieves are waiting for garages to replenish equipment through insurance and then going back to target them again. Now all the garages are considering joining up to protect their businesses." Mr Newton's business was burgled in March where thieves made off with around £4,000 worth of equipment.

Betts Motor Service in Netherton was targeted twice in a fortnight with thieves stealing gear worth £5,000 on May 17 and then returning to steal an estimated £10,000 worth in the second raid. Owner Robert Betts said: "I have had to increase security." West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page said: "We are aware of several similar break-ins at commercial properties over the last few months and investigations are into these are on-going. No arrests have been made yet. In some cases CCTV has been recovered and is being reviewed."

Calls for Bridgewater case to be reopened

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has called on Home Secretary Theresa May to reopen the investigation into the murder of Wordsley paperboy Carl Bridgewater, who died 38 years ago.

The Labour MP's intervention follows the broadcast of a Channel 4 documentary on Sunday which revealed new evidence about the murder of the 13-year-old at Yew Tree Farm, near Stourbridge, in 1978.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr Austin called on Home Secretary Theresa May to ask the Crown Prosecution Service and the police to review the case in light of new evidence revealed by the documentary, which was screened on Sun.

Policing Minister Mike Penning replied that the Government would be looking at the new evidence and agreed to meet with Mr Austin to discuss the issue.

Revelations over the Bridgewater murder inquiry appear to destroy the 'cast-iron' alibi of a former chief suspect. Bert Spencer, an ambulance driver, who later served time for a murder that bore striking similarities, has always denied killing Carl Bridgewater.

The horrific shooting at point-blank range at the farmhouse at Prestwood shook the country.

Now a former hospital secretary, who provided Spencer with what was called a 'cast-iron' alibi, has admitted she cannot prove where he was for the entire day when Carl was killed.

Wife

Janet Spencer, his first wife, has also spoken on the record for the first time in almost 40 years saying she believes the police should reopen the inquiry.

The allegations were contained in the Channel 4 programme in which leading criminologist Professor David Wilson conducted a series of revealing interviews with Spencer, now aged 76.

Spencer agreed for his conversations to be filmed for the 90-minute documentary but instead of strengthening his case, the programme painted him as a manipulative liar.

Channel 4 also approached Spencer's daughter, who was friends with Carl as a child. She said that although she believed her father was innocent she thought he was holding back information.

Spencer, who was filmed in his Lincolnshire home, has rejected all the new allegations made in the programme.

Mr Austin said: "Nobody who grew up in Dudley will forget the shocking murder of 13-year-old paperboy Carl Bridgewater."



Leading criminologist Professor David Wilson, left, with former ambulance driver Bert Spencer



Police and the media at Yew Tree Farm in 1978



Child victim Carl Bridgewater

MP responds to food bank appeal with pay rise cash

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has donated £100 from Parliament's pay rise on donations to the Black Country Food Bank.

The Labour MP decided he would use the extra cash to help those who are struggling to make ends meet.

He is responding to an urgent appeal from the food bank, which had been experiencing shortages, particularly with breakfast cereal, rice, tinned tomatoes and toilet rolls.

The number of families relying on food banks in the Black Country has risen sharply in recent years and the MP said he was keen to do whatever he could to help.

Mr Austin said he was 'humbled' to meet the hard-working volunteers during a recent visit.

"The Black Country Food Bank has been working hard for years to support local people, but demand keeps rising," he said. "The food bank's volunteers are doing brilliant work, but they need donations of food and money to keep helping local families."

From April, MPs were given a 1.3 per cent pay rise taking their salaries to almost £75,000. That came on the back of a 10 per cent rise decided in August and backdated to the General Election.

Mr Austin said: "I wanted to help right away, so I'm making a donation from the fund I set up to donate the MPs' pay rise."

"Black Country people are the most generous in Britain, so I know local people will rally round to help the food bank."

Heat is on to find best bread pud

THE hunt is on to discover Sandwell's best traditional bread pudding. As part of the Black Country Festival, the search is under way for the best example of the area's favourite traditional pud.

Libraries across Sandwell are hosting heats to find the best in each town with the winners going forward to the grand final at the Black Country 'Ay It Fun Day' in the Manor House, West Bromwich, on July 9.

Local heats include Cradley Heath and Blackheath libraries on Friday, June 24, both at 11.30am, and Langley Library on Saturday, June 25, at 11.30am.

Councillor Richard Marshall said: "Bread pudding is a Black Country delicacy."

Dead terrier dog is found in canal

A DEAD dog has been found in a Dudley canal. The RSPCA is appealing for information after the dog's body, which had a Jack Russell Terrier appearance, was found in Netherton on Monday, June 6. Call 0300 1238018.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WEIRDEST sight so far, in an isolated corner of a parish cemetery in Devon, was a pile of rubble topped with half a human skull. Grave robbing? Black-magic rituals? The only explanations that don't make the flesh creep are landslip and badgers.

"IT is morally vital that there is no increase in the number of animals that suffer at human hands," opined one radio pundit in a debate on growing human transplant organs in pigs. In other words, if we use one pig for spare parts, we must ensure another pig is not slaughtered for pies. Careers for the 21st century: ethical pig counter.

RESEARCH by Radio 2 suggested the Queen loves to sing and is word-perfect with the songs of George Formby. Now I am unable to get rid of the mental image of Her Majesty as a young mother, soaping her children on bath night while adopting a daft Lancashire accent and belting out: "When I'm cleaning Windsors."



I SAW Muhammad Ali in the 1980s when he visited Birmingham. Even then, before his Parkinson's was diagnosed, he was a slow, shuffling echo of the beautiful boxer who once floated like a butterfly – a victim, possibly, of too many punches. I never expected him to live so long. In contrast, Henry Cooper, whom I interviewed in his 70s, miraculously avoided brain damage and remained a great raconteur and an imposing figure almost to the end. What especially impressed me about Cooper was that he knew I understood virtually nothing about boxing and pitched his chat accordingly with great charm, as though we were lifelong friends. A gentleman.

OUR changing language. A reader reports that his manager regularly issues memos with the instruction: "Cascade this down to all colleagues." I am delighted to maelstrom this tit-bit to my readers.

GREAT philosophers of our time. "Life itself is pretty amazing. The fact that it just changes all the time – that kind of amazes me." Sir Paul McCartney, interviewed in the Mail on Sunday.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Town's Thursday street market bid is still alive

PLANS to bring a new outdoor street market to Stourbridge have stalled but bosses behind the scheme insist they remain committed to the project.

A councillor revealed that discussions are going on behind the scenes to get the project up and running. It was hoped a weekly Thursday market could have launched this April but LSD Promotions, which put the proposals forward, appears no closer to getting the go-ahead.

By Richard Guttridge

The arrival of the market would have seen High Street and Market Street closed to traffic each Thursday. The proposals met with mixed views. Opposition from some traders and uncertainty over the leadership of Dudley Council following the local elections meant the proposals were put on the back burner.

Agenda

But Michael Morgan, from LSD, said he was hopeful, now that the Labour group has been confirmed as in control, the proposal will be back on the agenda.

However, he was unable to say when the market could be up and running, saying it was a 'waiting game'.

Mr Morgan added: "After the local elections, nobody was left in overall control so it was put back with everything else that was going on. Now we can get it rolling again."

Stourbridge councillor

Nicholas Barlow said concerns from the Stourbridge Chamber of Trade had an impact. Some traders claimed holding a market on a Thursday could have a damaging effect on the High Street but the idea has been largely welcomed by the public.

Councillor Barlow explained: "I know it went to consultation with the chamber of trade and there were some concerns about the proposed siting within the High Street."

"Unfortunately, it's still up air. We want to make sure the balance is right and there is not an effect on established businesses."

Councillor Barlow remained confident the market would still go ahead, adding: "It is certainly welcomed by people who come into Stourbridge. They would like to see a market back on a regular basis. Discussions are still going on behind the scenes. We have to make sure it is right for the whole of Stourbridge."

Glass returns to historic site



Only formal dress will do for resident glassblower Allister Malcolm at The White House Cone Museum of Glass

A FURNACE erupted into life at the weekend on the site of a Black Country glass factory for the first time in 15 years.

Allister Malcolm, resident glass blower at the new White House Glass Cone Museum of Glass in Wordsley, on the site of the Stuart Crystal works, even wore a white shirt and black bow tie for the special occasion during a sneak preview before the official opening.

The 41-year-old produced the first piece of glass to be made at the new museum – a gold platter with a hint of aquamarine and a series of stripes of coloured glass with gold inclusions.

"Historically this will be very important piece and so I dressed accordingly," he said.

The museum has been built with £2.1 million funding from the European Development Fund and a £900,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The centre, supported by the British Glass Foundation, replaces Broadfield House glass museum and celebrates the area's glass industry heritage.

Homes, jobs and loans in new plans

AMBITIOUS plans for almost two million new homes and half a million jobs have been laid out as part of the new West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

The authority will see 1.9 million homes built over the next 15 years to help transform the West Midlands, bosses say. It is hoped the authority will oversee 500,000 jobs created, increased life expectancy for residents and an extra 20,000 businesses up and running.

The WMCA, which was set up following the region's landmark devolution deal, was due to be formally launched on Friday, but met delays after its official formation was challenged in Parliament.

But at its inaugural meeting bosses revealed a range of ambitious targets, which included a £70 million fund to provide short-term loans to businesses.

Authority chairman Bob Sleigh said: "Our plan is the blueprint for a region reborn. It ensures resources are focused in the right places at the right times to deliver fast, flexible and dynamic change in the areas that matter most."

WMCA board member Councillor Roger Lawrence, is also leader of Wolverhampton council, said: "This is about promoting the West Midlands as the place to do business."

● New authority could be a 'trap' – see page 15

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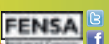


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Super hospital is dubbed a liability by former consultant

SANDWELL'S new £350 million super hospital has been branded a 'long-term liability' by a health expert who has compiled an explosive report.

John Lister, a former consultant with more than 30 years experience in the NHS, said the Midland Metropolitan Hospital was the wrong size, was being built in the wrong place and would mean the loss of hundreds of jobs to help pay for it. The extraordinary assessment will come as a blow to health bosses who have championed the site as the future of healthcare in Sandwell providing vastly improved services.

Police catch driver eating his porridge

A DRIVER eating porridge on the M6, a woman applying make-up at the wheel, and a biker steering one-handed while he took a call were among shocking incidents encountered by the Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG) during a recent campaign.

Almost 300 motorists were caught by motorway police during the week-long campaign tackling distracted driving and mobile phone use behind the wheel. In total, 289 people were found using a hand-held device or driving carelessly.

CMPG Inspector Sion Hathaway said: "Some of the things our officers saw were absolutely staggering. In the space of just a few minutes we caught a man eating porridge and a lady applying lipstick both while driving on the M6 at 50mph."

Work on the hospital, which will include 670 beds and 15 operating theatres, is already under way at Grove Lane, Smethwick.

Ahead of the publication of his report, Mr Lister described the new hospital as a 'gamble'. He said: "They are spending a lot of money on the hospital but it seems to be too small and not in the right place for people to get round easily. Some of the plans are still very questionable."

Drain

Mr Lister also claims the hospital, due to open in 2018, has cost too much and that repayments - estimated at around £25m a year - could be a drain on other health services.

A hospital spokesman said: "The Trust has not seen the report."

"The case for change to improve care through the creation of a single specialist acute centre has been subject to external review by clinicians in commissioning, and experts regionally and nationally. The site of the Midland Metropolitan reflects the outcome of public consultation."

Starstruck MP's selfie with hero Kevin

HE'S used to life on front line politics, but Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson was left a little starstruck after meeting one of his all time heroes, Kevin Rowland from Dexys Midnight Runners.

The MP for West Bromwich East took time out of his busy schedule to upload a selfie with the frontman of the Birmingham band which started off their singles charts success way back in 1979.

The music-loving MP has been in the public eye before promoting other bands, including up-and-coming garage rock two-piece, Dreng.

Mr Watson said: "Just bumped into a personal hero and living legend."

"And @DexysOfficial new album is exceptional."

Dexys Midnight Runners are best known for hit songs 'Come On Eileen' and 'Geno' which both reached number one in the UK singles chart.

The band released their fifth album 'Let the Record Show: Dexys Do Irish and Country Soul' this year.

Kevin Rowland used to live in Oldbury.



Tom Watson takes the selfie with Dexys Midnight Runners frontman Kevin Rowland

Apartments on show during weekend event

A LEADING UK housebuilder has announced the launch of new apartments on a site in Harborne with an open event planned for this weekend.

Persimmon Homes Central is selling 12 two-bedroom apartments on its Martineau Gardens development, off Balden Road.

Amanda Benjamin, sales director for Persimmon Homes Central, said: "We are thrilled to be launching the latest batch of properties on the development, which are ideal for those looking to get onto the property ladder."

"This is also aided by Help to Buy, which allows buyers to secure a brand new home with as little as a five per cent deposit, a mortgage of just 75 per cent and the remaining 20 per cent in the form of an interest free Government loan, repayable in the same time period as the mortgage."

Martineau Gardens is one of two Persimmon developments in the city, with the housebuilder also building a range of homes at its site at The Oaks on Raddelbarn Road.

Call 0121 7962 897, see www.persimmonhomes.com or visit Martineau Gardens on Saturday or Sunday.

Shoppers alerted to dodgy perfume sales

SHOPPERS have been warned to beware of counterfeit perfume being sold by rogue traders.

Sandwell Trading Standards reported claims of three men approaching people offering perfume for sale.

All of the incidents are believed to have happened on West Bromwich High Street.

Sandwell Council posted on Facebook to say: "We believe the perfume could be full of nasties."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Not voting is really not about some being lazy

FORMER Walsall Council leader Mike Bird hit out at the low turnout at last month's local elections, accusing the 70-odd per cent who did not turn out of being idle.

"There is no excuse not to vote, it is just laziness," he said. "These people will then complain at the decisions made by the administrations but I am sorry that is not how it works if you can't be bothered to get off your backside."

Two points. First of all, many of these people are not lazy, just busy. As a self-made businessman Councillor Bird should realise that not everybody works a 37-hour week.

These days many people travel a long way to work, leaving the house before the polling station opens and returning after it shuts. Some might have other things going on in their lives, such as caring for sick or elderly relatives. Under these circumstances, local politics is probably not high on the list of priorities.

But more importantly, true democracy, it is not just about having the right to vote, but also the right to not to. Yes, some people will say you should register your abstention by driving down to the polling station and spoiling your paper, but frankly I grew out of that sort of gesture politics in my 20s.

Maybe some people are lazy. And it is perhaps unfortunate that hard-working local councillors such as Councillor Bird are tainted with the indifference that many feel towards the political leaders at Westminster.

But if you do really want to get people to take an interest in your work, and encourage them to participate in democracy, branding them as idle is probably not the best way to go about it.

□ □ □

IMAGINE you were still sitting on the fence about the EU referendum. You have read all the scare stories, you have heard all the bizarre stats, and sat through hours of boring debates. And after all that, you're still on the fence.

Then, like a pair of ageing rockers announcing the start of their nostalgia tour, Tony Blair and John Major take to the stage urging us to vote Remain. Yep, me too.

□ □ □

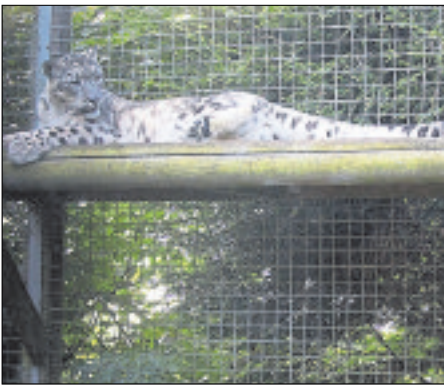
INCIDENTALLY, why all the fuss about the voter registration website crashing just before the deadline for the EU referendum?

It goes without saying that if you urge thousands of people to log onto a website it will crash. They always do.

But unless I have misunderstood the process completely, it is a legal requirement to be correctly listed on the electoral role. If people can't be bothered to comply with the law for the rest of the year, can they really complain if they miss out?



New snow leopard cub Milo will get round-the-clock care



Nanga relaxing in the sunshine on her high deck



Dudley Zoo staff are devastated by the sudden death

Tragic death of zoo snow leopard Nanga

Staff devastated about losing one of the attraction's best-loved creatures, as DAVID COSGROVE reports

SHE wowed visitors to Dudley Zoo for six years with her beauty and grace.

But snow leopard Nanga was sadly unable to survive after giving birth to her third cub, Milo, on Monday.

Staff and visitors have been left saddened by the news, which takes away one of the attraction's best loved creatures. Her cub Milo will now be hand-reared and given round-the-clock care.

Nanga, who turned seven last week, was a particular favourite with big cat keepers and visitors and had lots of adopters.

She came to Dudley Zoo from the Czech Republic in 2010 as part of an international breeding programme, where she was paired with Margaash, who moved to the Black Country from Banham Zoo in Norfolk.

They had their first cub, a girl called Nidara, in July 2013, but she unfortunately passed away at 11 weeks old.

Relationship

Nidara was the first leopard to be born at the attraction since 2001.

Their second cub, Makalu, is now two and is getting ready to move to Darjeeling Zoo in India – the native home for the species – at the end of June. The move is expected to go ahead as planned.

Dudley Council's deputy leader Judy Foster said she was saddened by Nanga's loss and offered her condolences to the zoo and its staff.

She said: "It is really sad to hear the news of her passing, especially after she lost a cub herself in the past.

"All we can do now is hope that the cub that she gave birth to is healthy and survives and her line continues.

"It's so sad because Nanga was very popular with visitors.



Seven year-old Snow Leopard Nanga died from complications due to labour

"We can only wish the zoo our commiserations, particularly to the staff who obviously have a very close relationship with the animals. "I also want to wish the cub well."

The snow leopard is native to the mountain ranges of Central Asia. They live between 3,000 and 5,500 metres above sea level on rocky mountain slopes.

Snow leopards show several adaptations for living in a cold mountainous environment. Their bodies are stocky, their fur is thick, their ears are small and rounded, all of which help to prevent excess heat loss.

Their paws are wide and this helps distribute their weight when walking on snow.

The feet also have fur on their soles to in-

crease their grip on steep and unstable surfaces, and this also helps to minimise heat loss.

Snow leopards' tails are long and flexible, helping them to maintain their balance in the rocky terrain they inhabit.

Treatment

Nanga had 20 adopters – they're all being offered the chance to swap their adoption for Margaash, the adult male snow leopard, or another animal on the zoo.

Nanga's death follows the loss of another popular zoo star, female giraffe Mia, back in December. The 11-year-old died after sustaining a fractured leg. Zoo director Derek Grove said: "Mia had been receiving regular veteri-

nary treatment for her legs, unfortunately the fracture was inoperable."

Mia moved to the zoo in 2011 from Norfolk and gave birth to her calf, Kito in February 2014. Kito is fully weaned and independent from his mother and remains in the paddock with his dad, Kubwa and auntie, Josie.

Back in May, we revealed how the zoo's trio of snow leopards were being studied for a university investigation.

Staffordshire University student Paige Griffiths, aged 20, was aiming to spend 100 hours observing how Margaash, Nanga and Makalu interact with different enrichment smells added to the enclosure such as cinnamon or sheep bedding scent.

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Sky's the limit for speed and power



Visitors can experience a pilot's eye view of RAF Cosford on a helicopter flight

Speed and training are both themes for the spectacular air show being held at RAF Cosford

THIS Sunday marks the return of one of the region's most popular events, the annual RAF Cosford Air Show.

With no tickets being sold on the day and tighter restrictions on people viewing the action from outside the show arena, organisers are anticipating another sell-out success at the airbase near Albrighton.

The attractions planned for this year's show are bigger and better than ever, with more aircraft on display and more interactive exhibitions.

More than 20 display items are scheduled to wow the crowds, from

thrilling aerobatics from modern jets to inspiring demonstrations of classic wartime fighters. Peter Reoch, part of the operations team, said: "We always try to get a really eclectic mix of aircraft in the flying display for everyone to enjoy. Of course a lot of the aircraft are related to our themes with 'Speed' and 'Training' running throughout the display this year."

Highlights to watch out for include the RAF Red Arrows. The team is once again the headline act but they have a few new moves for 2016, creating new and unique shapes with their signature red, white and blue smoke. The Red Arrows will also be performing a joint



A Jaguar, one of the fighter jets involved in the air show

The Eurofighter Typhoon is the Royal Air Force's primary fighter, standing by 24/7 to protect Britain's airspace. The jet's world-class agility and power will be showcased during a solo demonstration of the aircraft, flown by Flt Lt Mark Long.

Visitors to this year's show will also have the opportunity to be transported back in time to the 1950s at the University of Wolverhampton Vintage Village. It will complement one of the main show themes - speed - to showcase life in Britain during the formative years of jet engine design. Examples of vintage aircraft and vehicles will be on display with social and military history exhibitions. The University of Wolverhampton Race Team will be showcasing its

Morgan Plus 4 Babydoll racing car, based on a 1950s design.

Marilyn Summers, air show commercial manager, said: "The 1950s is credited as the decade when the teenager was invented and this year's village will give our visitors the chance to learn about the history of the time in a really fun atmosphere."

Colin Bourdieu is returning with his George Formby tribute, alongside the return of the glamorous Glamophones, a retro girl band from Birmingham.

Tickets for RAF Cosford Air Show cost £25 per adult, free for accompanied children under 16, from the RAF Museum or www.cosfordairshow.co.uk website.



The Sea Vixen will take part in a rare flying display appearance



Another fantastic aerial show from the ever popular Red Arrows

flypast with a King Air, to highlight the aircraft's role in flying training.

It may sound odd that a helicopter weighing up to 50,000lbs could possibly perform aerobatic manoeuvres but that's exactly what the RAF Chinook Display Team manage to do with their helicopter

Naval

Even seasoned visitors to the air show may struggle to remember the last time they saw the Sea Vixen performing in the sky over RAF Cosford. This naval fighter has been out of the display scene for a few years but now she has been given a new lease of life as part of the Fly Navy Heritage Trust.

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OAP left badly injured as yob lobs brick at taxi

THIS is the sickening sight of a pensioner's badly bruised and battered face after she was struck by a brick hurled through the window of a taxi.

In dramatic video footage the woman, who was sitting in the back of the cab, is heard to cry out in pain and shock. Her elderly husband tries to stem the blood from her head wound with a handkerchief after the missile fractured her skull.

West Midlands Police say the attack, in the Birmingham area, was one of seven similar incidents on the same night in May.

The swift action of the cab driver, from Dudley, who drove the couple straight to hospital has been praised.

The video footage has been posted on the Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association's Facebook page to publicise the dangers being faced by drivers and passengers due to yobs.

Shatters

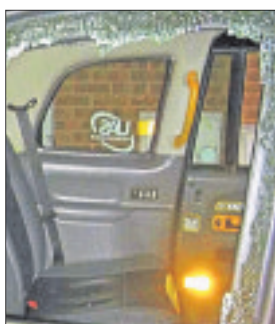
In the attack, which happened on May 25, the couple are seen to duck as the brick shatters the taxi window before striking the woman passenger, in her 70s, who is not being named.

The driver tries to calm the pair as he speaks to the emergency services on his phone and offers to take them straight to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Shaz Saleem, chairman of the Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, said: "This was a disgusting attack but I am not surprised by it. This is a nationwide issue.

"If anything, it's worse in Dudley. In parts of the area, such as the Wrens Nest and down by Parkes Hall, it happens a lot.

"In Stourbridge recently drivers have reported stones and eggs being thrown at their cabs. An egg might not seem harmful but you can't get it off



The shattered taxi window



The woman's horrific injuries



The elderly couple recoil in terror as the brick smashes through the window with windscreen wipers, it blurs your vision and is really dangerous."

He said the 600-member association was in talks with Dudley Council for permission to get CCTV put in all their cabs.

"We have been telling people for years about the dangers we face as taxi drivers but this is the first time we've had footage to back up what we've

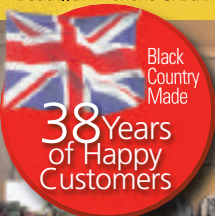
been saying," said the cabbies' leader. The driver did not want to be named. The attack happened at around 10pm in Yardley.

Detective Constable Chris Paintin from Force CID, said: "This incident is not an accident and clearly shows little regard for the safety of road users."

● For video visit expressandstar.com website.

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Poem tells of visit to the palace

Quarry Bank E TWG

AFTER greeting all of those present at the May meeting, chairman Vera Wright set a topical flavour to the meeting by reading her own poem 'Reflections on our visit to Buckingham Palace'. 'To London to see the Queen', read in Vera's own amusing style. The poem explained that although they didn't succeed in seeing the Queen a great time was had by all.

The meeting continued in the usual way, with the reading and signing of last month's minutes and reading of the treasurer's report.

Vera Raybould gave information on her recent federation meeting, and social secretary Margaret Writtle on the arranged visit to the Carpet Factory, Kidderminster.

A visit is also arranged to take 'afternoon tea' at Dunsley Hall, this on June 25. The birthday lunch at The Granary was reported to have been most successful. This was Quarry Bank Guild's 50th anniversary, the guild membership still including two original founders, Margaret Writtle and Gwen Rowley.

Margaret Bunn had provided a most impressive birthday cake.

The next activity was a quiz presented by Vera Raybould. This was again quite topical as it concerned mostly currency from before decimalisation.

The ladies were then encouraged to visit the sales table to browse and look for bargains, concluding a an enjoyable 'do it ourselves' evening.

Expert put to test with question time



Question Time was chaired by Philip Aubrey, formerly of Birmingham Botanical Gardens Clent Gardening Club

THE second Friday in May saw around 30 members enjoy an evening visit to the garden at Pear Tree Cottage in Wichenford. Set in the midst of glorious Worcestershire countryside this English country garden contains many interesting and quirky features and provided much food for thought.

The evening was rounded off in very satisfactory fashion with tea, coffee and helpings of home-made cake.

The normal monthly meeting in May was the annual joint meeting with Belbroughton Horticultural Society and for the second year running comprised a Gardeners Question Time chaired by Philip Aubrey the now retired former director of the Birmingham

Botanical Gardens. Assisted by both clubs' chairmen, a lively evening was enjoyed with many questions arising from the floor and Philip's expertise was put to the test on a variety of gardening topics.

The evening was rounded off with tea and coffee and a splendid array of home-made cakes provided by the Clent club members.

After the raffle, the Clent chairman reminded his members of another evening garden visit, this time to The Cheryls at Button Oak near Bewdley.

Crystal clear with glass history

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

the speaker Dr Kate Round who was to talk about the glass making industry in Stourbridge. She said at one time there were 30 glassworks in the so-called Crystal Mile. Sadly, few remain.

When the Broadfield House Glass Museum

opened it had 2,000 pieces but at its closure it had 10,000. These will be displayed when the new White House Cone Museum opens later this year along with a copy of the famous Portland vase and other historical items.

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The new reception for customers at LTC in Vine Lane

LTC family firm first for tyres



Ready to serve the driving public – the team at LTC Halesowen

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FAMILY-RUN Black Country tyres and exhausts specialists LTC is continuing to invest in its latest branch in Halesowen.

LTC, run by directors and brothers Darren and James MacDonald, has spent more than £60,000 refurbishing the premises in Vine Lane, which it moved into in November.

The improvements to the main road site have included adding three new drive-in tyre bays and an extension to the office and new waiting area for customers.

It is LTC's third branch and it is open to the public 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays.

Darren MacDonald said that the 4,000 sq ft premises had ample car parking and also offered a workshop for carrying out service work, including brakes and shock absorbers. As well as offering tyre and exhaust replacement, LTC also offers alloy wheels, batteries and air conditioning recharging.

"We will be bringing in stainless

steel exhaust fitting at Halesowen in the next month as well," added Darren MacDonald. "As well as the investment in refurbishing the site we are continuing to invest in new equipment."

"We now offer wheel aligning for all types of vehicles at all our branches with each having Hunter HawkEye Elite four wheel alignment systems," he explained.

LTC, which is in its 26th year, also plans to move its head office to Halesowen in the near future.

The new branch is managed by Adam Jones, who has been with the business for 13 years. He heads a four-strong team currently but LTC is in the process of recruiting.

Darren MacDonald said that the business had grown over the years and now employed 18 in total. It started in Bott Lane, Lye, as Lye Tyre Care and later became LTC. It now has branches in Brierley Hill and Stourbridge as well as a wholesale site in Kidderminster.

"We have steadily invested over the years as we have added further



At work in the service bay at LTC Halesowen

sites and introduced new services and products," he said.

LTC has its own brand of exhausts called Pro Flow and a performance van parts range called Van-Tech mainly aimed at Volkswagen campers and vans.

"At LTC we aim to put ourselves out for our customers and give them exactly the service they require. We go out of the way to be the best at what we do."

"Our prices are keen and we work on a very small margin so we can offer customers the best discount possible as well as doing a quality job."

He said that LTC was proud to be a family business with his son Philip MacDonald managing the Brierley Hill branch. His brother and John Windle manage the Lye operation.

"A lot of our staff have worked for us for a long time including my brother-in-law Philip Bannister who does all the stainless steel exhaust work at Brierley Hill," he added.

LTC has a website – www.tyres4sale.com – where people can find out about what it has to offer. LTC Halesowen can be contacted on 0121 550 6084.

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A symbol of the D-Day landings – Pegasus Bridge, which carried Allies into Caen



An aerial photo which shows the three Horsa gliders



Two of the three gliders in the 1944 operation. Picture from Imperial War Museum

Den – first to fall, but forever a war hero who led from the front on D-Day

HE led the greatest invasion of all time and will be forever remembered as its first casualty.

Black Country officer Den Brotheridge headed the charge across Pegasus Bridge in the early hours of June 6, 1944, at the start of the D-Day assault which was to lead to the liberation of north-west Europe from Nazi control.

The bridge was captured within minutes but the 29-year-old soldier from Smethwick was shot in the neck, becoming the first Allied fatality of D-Day.

Some 72 years on, on that fateful date, June 6, last week, he and the 150,000 other servicemen who took part in the invasion were being remembered.

Lieutenant Brotheridge landed in one of three large Horsa gliders containing soldiers of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, at precisely 16 minutes past midnight just feet away from the bridge over the Caen Canal, ahead of the large-scale invasion.

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

A weights and measures inspector by profession, he also played football for Aston Villa Colts and cricket for Mitchells & Butlers, Smethwick. Back home, his wife Maggie was eight months pregnant with their first child.

He was chosen to command 'D' Company's 25 Platoon, 6th Airborne Division, by Major John Howard. The original plan had been for Lt David Wood to lead the first platoon but shortly before D-Day, Howard changed the order of landing and Brotheridge was selected for the job.

His glider, also carrying the major, landed 50ft from Bénouville Bridge, later renamed Pegasus in honour of the operation. The aircraft skidded to an abrupt halt on landing, with the force rendering all of the passengers momentarily unconscious.

The platoon quickly recovered and Lt Brotheridge led them across the bridge, rap-

idly dealing with any enemy they encountered. Reaching the other side, he dropped a grenade into a machine-gun post but seconds later he was shot and fell, mortally wounded.

Just 15 minutes after the landing, the code signal 'Ham and Jam' was being broadcast back to Britain to say the bridge and the Gondree Cafe, on the opposite side of the canal, were captured – the first part of occupied France to be taken on D-Day.

Major Howard later wrote of the news of his commander's fate: "It really shook me because it was Den, and how much of a friend he was, and because my leading platoon was now without an officer. At the top of my mind was the fact that I knew Margaret, his wife, was expecting a baby almost any time."

Denis Edwards, No.25 Platoon's sniper, wrote: "Every one of us was really distressed that Lt Brotheridge should have been killed in that way at the very start of our mission. He was a man for whom we had the greatest respect. Like all our Air-

borne officers, he had never asked us to do anything that he would not do himself."

On June 6, 1994, Major Howard returned to the scene to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day. Then aged 81, he recalled his friend and former colleague.

He then reached into his pocket and produced the whistle he used that night to blast out the V for victory signal. Lt Brotheridge's body now lies in the War Cemetery in Ranville churchyard, near Caen. He was mentioned in dispatches, published in the London Gazette on September 28, 1944. The citation read: "Lt Brotheridge showed the highest qualities of leadership and bravery and his outstanding example and dash was responsible for getting his men across and seizing the bridge intact – a vital factor in the success of the airborne plan."

His widow Maggie gave birth to their daughter, Margaret, 19 days after his death. She also attended the anniversary memorial service in Caen to remember her father and, the following year, unveiled a plaque in his honour at Smethwick Council House.



Hero – Lieutenant Den Brotheridge, in his uniform

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Book in gear for Longbridge story

THE archivist at the British Motor Museum has launched a new book looking at the past, present and future of Longbridge.

Gillian Bardsley's *Making Cars at Longbridge, 1905 to the Present Day* honours the 110th anniversary of the production of the first Austin car at Longbridge as well as the 150th birthday of its designer Herbert Austin.

The book was written with the Rev Colin Corke, the former chaplain to the factory, lifelong car enthusiast and now Vicar of Longbridge. It is illustrated with unique images from the official company archive.

Gillian Bardsley said "Whilst my book is about Longbridge and Austin, it is not all dry facts about cars. It is packed full of fascinating photos that capture the social history of the time, and take you back to the fashion, technology and advertising of the day".

The book, published by the History Press, is available at £17.99 online from the museum's website.

Kitchen worker plotted to rob pub manager of takings

FOUR men have been put behind bars after a pub manager was attacked in broad daylight as she took the day's takings to a post office.

Among the gang was 25-year-old Kieran Chana, who worked in the kitchen at the Pheasant Inn in Abbey Road, Oldbury, at the time of the attack.

Police described Chana as 'the mastermind' of the plot.

Two men struck as Bethany Jones crossed nearby Pottery Road on her way to deposit the cash at around

2.15pm on October 27. She was kicked and punched to the ground as they took a bag containing £2,930. Robert Brady-Ward and Colin Talbot delivered blows to her face as well as kicks to her body as she lay on the ground. They then raced to a waiting Volkswagen Polo driven by Ayden Cash.

Suspicion was raised when Chana, of Eva Road, Oldbury, was seen on his phone outside the pub during the attack. Officers arrested him the next day. They found keys in his possession for a car with the same registration number as that spotted at the scene.

A search of the vehicle revealed sev-

eral bags of purchases from JD Sports in Merry Hill. CCTV from that store showed the group using large quantities of £20 notes to buy items.

Chana, Brady-Ward, 25, Talbot, 24, and Cash, 20, were sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Talbot and Cash, both of Holland Avenue, Oldbury, and Brady-Ward, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob. Chana denied the same charge but was convicted in May after a trial. Last week he was sentenced to five-and-a-half years with Cash given three years, Talbot four years and Brady-Ward three years and eight months.



Ringleader Kieran Chana

MP concerned on dental health

A BLACK Country MP has written to the Health Secretary urging him to make sure dentists have the resources to improve public awareness on tooth decay.

Ian Austin, Dudley North MP, wrote to Jeremy Hunt after new statistics from Public Health England showed children in Dudley are two and a half more times likely to get tooth decay than Mr Hunt's constituency in Surrey. The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Dentistry and Oral Health has called on the Government to address the growing gap between parts of the UK on children's dental health.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "We need to make sure that every penny of NHS spending goes where it's needed most, so it's important that preventable problems like tooth decay are taken seriously. Places like Dudley are falling behind on kids' dental health."

Brexit banner on eyesore building



The huge Brexit banner on Dudley's Cavendish House

THOUSANDS of motorists passing Dudley were greeted by a huge Vote Leave banner which had been hung from the soon to be demolished Cavendish House office block.

Campaigners took it upon themselves to get their message across by hanging the huge banner on the side of the building ahead of the EU referendum on June 23.

Cavendish House is currently empty as it awaits demolition.

The eyesore building overlooks Duncan Edwards Way, meaning the banner was seen by thousands of drivers passing, who were encouraged to 'take control' and vote for Brexit.

The banner became a big talking point across Dudley as it was posted by on various social media sites.

The dilapidated seven-storey building, which campaigners say has blighted the town centre for years, will be torn down to make way for a major £50 million development.

It was once home to offices for the Inland Revenue. The site off Trindle Road will be redeveloped creating homes, restaurants and shops in the new Portersfield development.

Former firefighter was band fundraiser

TRIBUTES have been paid to a Dudley firefighter who has died after a brave battle with cancer.

Dave Reeves MBE, aged 73, was a member of the West Midlands Fire Service for more than 25 years.

He also organised numerous charity events and was a founding member of the West Midlands Fire Service Band.

His daughter, Mandy Merrick, said: "He was an amazing man and outstanding fire officer."

"During his years in the service he formed the West Midlands Fire Service Band, which he was incredibly passionate about, and with them he raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity."

"On one occasion, he got the band to play day and night at what was the old NEC, tirelessly collecting money for Muscular Dystrophy, and earning the band a place in the Guinness Book of Records. The band is still playing and raising money, which is great legacy to him."



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14 Home is damaged by blaze

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, June 16, 2016

A BLAZE has caused extensive damage at a home in Rowley Regis.

Firefighters from Oldbury Fire Station were sent to bring the fire at a property on Sandford Avenue under control at around 10.45am on Sunday.

Smoke damaged the whole of the property and the cause of the fire is believed to have been a faulty electrical appliance.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire said that no injuries were reported to any of the occupants and the other emergency services were not required.

The kitchen was badly hit with work surfaces left charred and appliances destroyed.

However, the situation could have been worse as in a tweet Oldbury Fire Station said: "Swift and assertive actions prevented any escalation."

Church hosts royal revels

AN evening of entertainment is being held at a Blackheath church next weekend to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

On Saturday, June 25, St Paul's Church in Long Lane presents a variety night of 'fun, laughter and music' in celebration of Her Majesty's long reign.

Starting at 7pm, those attending are urged to bring along a 'regal' sprinkling of hats, scarves and flags. Admission is free and there will be refreshments.

FOCUS ON BLACKHEATH AND ROWLEY REGIS

Families are needed to host Chernobyl children

THIRTY years on from Europe's worst nuclear disaster in Chernobyl, the threat to the health of those in the danger zone has not gone away.

The immediate area around the nuclear blast was evacuated and will probably not be safe for human habitation for 20,000 years.

But communities remain on the fringes in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, where children have eaten food grown in contaminated soil and drank unsafe water.

A charity in the Black Country works to offer some of those children respite from the potentially harmful conditions they live through on a daily basis. A handful of children come over each year to enjoy activities and access healthy food and water.

The Friends of Chernobyl's Children group places youngsters in houses across the Black Country but is keen for more families willing to take them in to come forward after inviting seven children to visit from Belarus this year.

Adam Harper, aged 33, from Rowley Regis, who acts as a host, said: "There is the exclusion zone where nobody lives but outside of it there are places where the fallout is quite severe."

"Conditions are not great, many of them are poor and the economy isn't brilliant."

There is radiation in the soil so it's in the local produce they eat and the water."

The children, who are provided with new clothing and visits to opticians, stay for around four weeks each summer. Host families are able to claim back expenses.

Mr Harper, who has two children of his own, called on others interested in taking in a child to find out more about the project and the difference it makes to the youngsters.

He said: "We take them in for four weeks to give them some respite. There is an activity programme for them as a lot of the host families work during the day."

"It has been really rewarding for us. Having my own kids, it has been a good experience for them as well."

For further information visit www.focc.org.uk



One of the groups visiting the region from eastern European areas hit by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

Poundland to open a new store

A NEW Poundland store is opening in Blackheath creating jobs.

The store will open in the former Michaels Supermarket building in Long Lane on June 25. It will sell more than 3,500 products.

Poundland's retail director, Martin Dawson, said: "Poundland has grown significantly over the past 12 months and it's fantastic to see this expansion continuing with a new store in Blackheath. We're looking forward to opening our doors."

Michaels Supermarket shut its doors in March. Joe Singh has opened the store in 1981 aged 18 with his siblings. It was first of three of their family-owned stores in the Black Country.

Applications for vacancies at Poundland can be found at www.poundlandcareers.co.uk website.

Wide interest over housing

PEOPLE interested in buying homes on a Rowley Regis development have been travelling from as far as Leicestershire to get an early look at the type of houses being built.

Rowley Grange in Throne Road, Rowley Regis is to feature three and four-bedroom homes from Redrow's Heritage collection.

Properties are currently being sold 'off plan' with show homes due to open this summer.

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Veterans' medals will be 'forgotten war' reminder

VETERANS from the 'forgotten war' in Korea have presented Wolverhampton with three medals to help ensure that the conflict is remembered by future generations.

Almost 100,000 British troops fought in the Korean War between 1950 and 1953 and more than 1,000 were killed. But many of those who served feel the conflict lacks of public attention as it has been dwarfed by memories of the preceding Second World War and the subsequent conflict in Vietnam.

The war broke out when Communist North Koreans invaded South Korea with the backing of Mao's China and Stalin's Soviet Russia.

Last week members of the Wolverhampton branch of the British Korean Veterans Association handed a Korean Medal, a United Nations Service Medal for Korea and an Ambassador for Peace Medal to the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Barry Findlay. The medals will be displayed in the mayoral suite at the city's Civic Centre.

Branch chairman Len Flavell said: "The Korean War has always been known as the forgotten war. It was always felt that it was a foreign conflict."

"The war must be remembered and those medals will be here forever. Hopefully they will be seen by children and their families who will then want to know more about it."

Mr Flavell, of Coseley, served in the Army's catering corps in Korea in 1954 and 1955.

The 80-year-old travelled back to South Korea in 2013 and is frustrated that Korea remains divided more than 60 years later.



Mr Flavell hands the medals to Wolverhampton Mayor Barry Findlay flanked by Korean War veterans

Americans buy alloy wheel family firm

ONE of the Black Country's leading manufacturing firms, which employs 230, has been bought by American investors in a multi-million pound deal.

The price tag on the takeover of West Bromwich-based Rimstock, which makes forged and cast alloy wheels, has not been revealed but the new owners are promising major investment and growth for the future.

Rimstock chief executive and managing director Stephen Lane remains at the head of the company with a new executive chairman, British entrepreneur David Roberts. Rimstock's founder Steve Neal has sold the business but will remain as a consultant, while his son Matt, the racing driver and former marketing director, will be retained as a brand ambassador.

Matt said: "It's a bit bittersweet for my father. He has put his heart and soul into the business. He is 75 in October and Rimstock is the reason he gets up in the morning but the company needed substantial investment. It was an offer we couldn't really refuse."

The company employs 230, mostly at its Ridgacre Road factory, and turns over nearly £17 million a year.

Combined authority move could be a 'trap'

THE creation of the West Midlands Combined Authority could lead to a return to the poll tax, a Black Country MP has warned.

Warley MP John Spellar told a Westminster committee he was concerned that plans for the combined authority were being 'rushed through' and that calculating a fair funding method was one of a number of issues that needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency.



Warning - John Spellar MP

The Labour MP described the devolution deal as 'a bribe' used to force through Chancellor George Osborne's 'political project'.

Funding for the authority, which includes all of the Black Country including Dudley and Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Coventry and parts of Shropshire and Warwickshire, is set to be based on the total resident population.

Mr Spellar said: "It will not be based on the council tax value or on a proportion of income, but will just be a per capita charge - in other words, back to the poll tax."

The much-criticised poll tax was brought in by Margaret Thatcher's Tory Government in 1990 in place of the rates system. It was scrapped in 1993/94 and replaced with council tax in the wake of huge public opposition, which led to riots on the streets and court appearances for those who refused to pay.

Mr Spellar also warned of 'traps' that could see health functions transferred from the NHS to the combined authority, without the cash to fund them.

"We have had experience of that before," he said. "Councils have had a number of responsibilities transferred to them but unfortunately the money, or the sums that were previously being spent, did not follow. The responsibilities were transferred but so were increasing liabilities, meaning other council services have had to be cut."

Mr Spellar said people affected by the combined authority were still 'in the dark' as to what its precise make-up would be.

"The core authorities are the councils of the old West Midlands County Council," he said. "However, discussions are taking place about whether Warwickshire will be involved, although it is unclear what stage they are at. Equally, discussions

are taking place as to the involvement of Telford and the rest of Shropshire.

"That would be quite a different type of authority and people in the region, not just Parliamentarians, want to know what the shape of the authority will be."

The West Midlands Combined Authority is currently at the draft stage and is due to be debated in Parliament later this year with a metro mayor for the region due to be elected in May 2017.

Mr Spellar added: "There are some serious questions that make this a very unsatisfactory proposal, and it is being rushed through before these important issues have been resolved locally or between Government and the relevant local authorities."

Coventry South Labour MP Jim Cunningham said he could not think of any local authority in the West Midlands that really wanted this deal.

"But the authorities know if they do not go ahead with it, they could be subject to certain sanctions," he said. "For example, a reduction in any grants they may get from central government. In the Chancellor's budget statement, he said that grants to local authorities were going to be removed over a period. The underlying strategy is to shift responsibility for funding local services from central Government."



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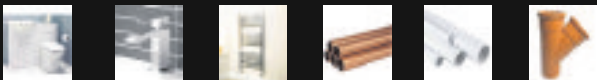
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Rise in attacks on ambulance staff

ATTACKS on West Midland Ambulance Service staff attending 999 calls are on the rise, new figures have revealed.

Workers reported a total of 760 physical and verbal assaults between April 2015 and the end of March this year.

Ambulance chiefs say they are 'extremely disappointed' that crews are being attacked 'at the hands of people they are trying to help'.

The figures show an increase of 23 per cent on the previous year when 617 incidents were logged.

During the 12 months, 49 people have been prosecuted for their actions while a further 40 have been sent warning letters over their behaviour.

Out of those written to, three people replied offering verbal apologies saying it was not their normal behaviour and one person submitted a complaint.

More than twice as many pupils caught with weapons

THE number of children found with weapons at school in the West Midlands has more than doubled in just two years.

There were 64 children caught with a knife or other offensive weapons in 2015 - up from 18 in 2013, according to figures released by police.

Of those caught last year, one was only nine years old and two ten-year-olds were found with a weapon.

A child took a hammer to school

in 2015, while another was caught with a screwdriver in 2014.

There were 15 kitchen knives recovered from pupils in 2015, one more than the year before.

Another pupil in the region had a ball bearing gun at school last year and there were four knuckledusters found.

In November 2015 alone, 13 children were caught with weapons at school, a Freedom of Information request from West Midlands Police showed. In March this year it was reported an 11-year-old boy was stabbed in the leg at Moseley Park School, Wolverhampton. Executive

headteacher Georgetta Holloway said it was an "isolated incident". The victim was injured with a blade from a pencil sharpener.

Posters

Two months earlier police were told of a fight at St Edmund's Catholic Academy in the city, during which a boy was said to have a small kitchen knife.

Earlier this year West Midlands Police launched a campaign with posters urging parents of teenaged boys to be aware that their sons could be carrying knives and running the risk of being sent to prison,

being badly injured or even killed. It included the image of a mother at her son's funeral.

The force's lead for knife crime Detective Chief Inspector Ian Parnell said: "During the last decade we have worked hard on campaigns and operations to reduce knife crime across the West Midlands.

"There is never any excuse to carry a weapon, whether it's at a school or any other public place.

"As part of our educational campaigns we have ploughed resources into telling youngsters about the dangers of and consequences of carrying a knife."

In or out debate as MPs talk EU

THREE Black Country MPs are due to take part in a European Union referendum debate in Dudley tomorrow night (Friday).

The event will take place at High Arcal School in Sedgley at 7pm. It will feature Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McCadden, Dudley South MP Mike Wood and has been organised by Ian Austin MP, who represents Dudley North.

He said: "It's a massive decision. Chatting to people in Dudley these past few weeks I've been struck by how frustrated people are with the lack of proper debate and clear answers.

"People tell me they need to hear all the facts and weigh up the arguments before making up their minds. That's why I'm organising Dudley's EU referendum debate, so local people can hear both sides of the argument in a serious, balanced debate."

To reserve seats visit ianaustrin.co.uk/referendum_debate, or call (01384) 342504.



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Charity boosted as golfers club together



Roy and Barbara Hayden receive the Nationwide cheque from employee of the year Jessica Aulak

STARS from film and football have helped a Kidderminster family smash their £150,000 fundraising barrier for Cure Leukaemia at a golf day held in memory of their son.

The tenth annual Stephen Hayden charity golf day, organised by his father Roy, mother Barbara and sister Amanda, raised £15,000 for the blood cancer charity, a figure beyond the family's "wildest dreams".

Harry Potter star James Phelps, who played Fred Weasley, Hagley-raised broadcaster Adrian Chiles, ex-Wolves footballers Geoff Thomas and David Kelly and former West Bromwich Albion coaches Richard O'Kelly and Colin Addison played in the Stableford contest at Wharton Park Golf & Country Club at Bewdley.

The Haydens, of Chester Road North, began fundraising for the charity in 2006 after Stephen lost his battle against acute myeloid leukaemia aged 26. Proceeds takes their decade-long fundraising to £155,000 and were boosted by Nationwide Building Society donating £5,000. The Haydens were nominated for the sum by Nationwide's Employee of the Year Jessica Aulak, from Dudley.

Website lie proves costly for gardener

A GARDENER who lied about membership of an approved traders' scheme has been ordered to pay more than £3,500.

Danny Riley, trading as Bill and Ben The Garden Men, The Landscape Garden Company, The Landscape Men Limited and Outdoor Landscape Services Limited, claimed to be part of a landscaping and paving approved contractors' scheme when he wasn't. Riley, of Redhill Avenue, Wombourne, carried out work for a Stourbridge resident who was dissatisfied and complained to trading standards, who discovered he was making the false claim on his website, plus a further false claim of membership of another approved scheme.

The 28-year-old pleaded guilty to three offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations at Dudley Magistrates Court. He was handed a 12-month community order, 220 hours unpaid work, and told to repay the customer £2,500 and £1,048 costs to Dudley Council.

'Hypa' active to help overcome heartache

A PERSONAL trainer who went viral after performing incredible feats of strength on the streets of the Black Country has told how he channelled anger into his art after suffering personal heartache.

Hypa 'Da Don' Hemmings, from Tividale, who performs and teaches calisthenic exercises, was devastated when he and partner Becky lost their first child who was stillborn in 2009.

Ever since, the 29-year-old, who also works as a security guard, chose to graft through the pain. He said: "I grew up with two sisters and three brothers with my single mum. It was a tough upbringing. "I first got into this after my girlfriend and I had a baby that was stillborn. I needed to find a way of getting my anger out and I channelled it all into fitness. It was hard because my girlfriend didn't want

to go out, so I would go and do the shopping and all that kind of thing, and I'd always bump into people who'd be asking how the baby was doing, and I'd have to tell them. Having to keep repeating it was the worst part.

"But I probably wouldn't be here now, doing what I'm doing. I always say that tough times don't last, but tough people do."

Hypa, real name Larry, has had thousands of views on his Facebook videos, which see him perform exercises including the Airwalk, Human Flag and Muscle Ups.

Calisthenics are intended to increase body strength, body fitness and flexibility through movements such as push-ups or pull-ups, bending, jumping, or swinging, using body weight for resistance.



Hypa, of Tividale, lives up to his name by demonstrating with his calisthenic discipline

Sabbath 'End' and Wonder Stuff return

BLACK Sabbath will come home for their final ever show as it was revealed they would end their story where it began – in Birmingham.

The rockers' final gig will be the second of two nights at the Genting Arena, February 2 and 4. The line-up includes original members Ozzy Osbourne, Geezer Butler and Tony Iommi, who first played together in a Brum pub in 1968.

Tickets for 'The End' go on sale tomorrow (Friday) at 9am from www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 33 88 222.

Meanwhile, Black Country rock band The Wonder Stuff are planning a Christmas show in Birmingham.

The group fronted by Miles Hunt mark their 30th anniversary and release of eighth studio album 30 Goes Around The Sun this year.

The band, whose hits included Size Of A Cow, will be supported by Bentley Rhythm Ace in concert at Birmingham's O2 Institute on December 23. Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday) from ticketweb.co.uk or 0844 477 2000.

Dangerous dogs bill for kennels is soaring

WEST Midlands Police spent more than £600,000 in just 12 months on kennel fees to house dangerous dogs seized off the streets.

Despite the number of dogs being sent to kennels going down, new legislation brought in by the Government meant the costs to the force have risen.

Police chiefs have labelled the hike 'outrageous' and have urged a rethink.

From May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016 the force seized 235 dangerous dogs – compared to 311 in the same period in 2014/15. However, the cost of kennelling the dangerous animals spiralled from £462,000 in 2014/15 to £620,000 in 2015/16.

The region's Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "It's truly outrageous that we've spent nearly two-thirds of a million on the kennelling of dangerous dogs. We've had legislation imposed on us which has increased the pressures on our budget.

Children

"I welcomed this change as it helps to remove animals that may pose a risk to children and vulnerable people from our streets. However, the new legislation is putting further weight on stretched police budgets as more dogs need kennelling whilst investigations are carried out.

"The Government need to consider these additional costs and the impact they have on local policing."

A report to a Strategic Policing and Crime Board stated: "The costs have continued to rise. This is due to

By David Cosgrove

the fact that many of these seizures are for 'dangerous dogs' and therefore the investigations and time within the criminal justice system are increasing. This means dogs are remaining in kennels for longer periods hence the higher cost.

"The Operations Dog Unit is working with local policing units to provide support and guidance so they are able to conduct investigations in an effective and timely manner.

"The Dog Unit is also working with the courts and Crown Prosecution Service to try and address the delays within the criminal justice system."

It is illegal to own, breed, import or sell pit bull terriers, Japanese tosas, dogo Argentinos (also known as Argentine mastiffs) and fila Brasileiro dogs without specific exemption from a court. Dogs matching many of the characteristics of a pit bull terrier, are also banned.

Before 1997 these dogs faced a mandatory death sentence but now the court can decide to grant a reprieve.

Jobs to be axed as cuts hit CAB

DOZENS of jobs are hanging in the balance at Dudley's Citizens Advice Bureau as the service faces losing hundreds of thousands of pounds in council funding.

Bosses at the CAB – which employs 50 people – confirmed there will be redundancies after being told the amount it receives from Dudley Council would be cut.

Council chiefs said they are reviewing how much money could continue to be provided to the service.

The CAB receives £750,000 a year from the council but the authority has said it can no longer afford to divert so much money to the service because of Government cuts.

It is used by thousands of people across the Dudley borough every year, with many turning to it in times of crisis, such as debt or homelessness.

The CAB has four sites in Dudley town centre and 18 outreach centres spread across the borough, as well as the Lye Community Project.

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Sought-after spoons can cause stir in salesroom

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway, of Perry & Phillips



I'M often asked about items that have proved to be 'star' sellers in the saleroom and the one lot that readily springs to mind is usually the amazing scrimshaw walking cane that sold for a staggering £46,000.

However, certain other lots do stand out – such as a collection of historic silver spoons, including apostle spoons, which made an even more amazing £50,000 a few years ago.



Collectable spoons continue to attract the bidders and so I thought this week I would take a look at those that will appeal the most.

The spoons I mentioned were extremely rare and dealers from all over the world were bidding for them – so if you do find some lurking in the attic you could make a considerable amount of money!

An apostle spoon, usually made of silver, silver plate and occasionally pewter, features an image on the handle of an apostle or other figure related to Christianity and often the handle image could also be used as a personal seal.

They can date from the early 1400s, represent the Last Supper and were hugely popular in both England and Germany.

They were usually made in sets of 12, with an extra one of Jesus being known as the Master or Saviour spoon and sometimes the 13th spoon featured the Virgin Mary.

The spoons had become ideal presents for god-children by the 1500s, although their popularity was on the wane by the late 17th century.

Famous playwrights such as Francis Beaumont and Ben Jonson refer to apostle spoons within their works, and Shakespeare mentions them in Henry VIII.

It's very uncommon to find one apostle spoon, a series of 12 would be very rare indeed and if you come upon a set of 13, complete with the Master spoon, you will be very lucky indeed!



In terms of 'regular' spoons, the

vintage silver ones come in all styles and sizes – from mustard and salt spoons, tea and coffee spoons to pudding, soup and serving spoons, all of which are valued according to the their age and condition.

A set of Georgian table spoons could easily sell for several hundred pounds, whilst a very rare Paul Storr solid silver ladle could make £1,500 or more.

Paul Storr is definitely a name to look out for, a famous 19th century English silversmith he made everything from tableware for royalty to a special silver cup for Lord Nelson – his work is displayed at both Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace.

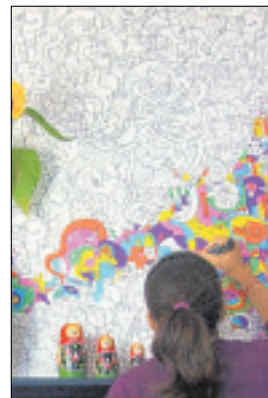
You can buy his spoons today without looking too hard . . . if you have the money.

I recently saw a set of eight Paul Storr silver gilt tea spoons, dated 1835, for sale on the internet for a cool £3,200!

Having said all that, it is of course possible to pick up some very nice vintage spoons at affordable prices . . . but if you find one at the back of a drawer that is hallmarked it might just be an idea to get it valued!

Perry and Phillips holds valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm at its Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, and auctions of antiques and collectibles are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Trends change but home is still sweet home



Artistic flair on display at home

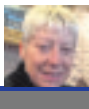
WHEN I was 15 I was allowed to choose my bedroom decoration for the first time. I chose purple graphic circle wallpaper with matching curtains, lilac walls and purple flowered bedlinen. It was super fashionable and trendy for its time and I loved it. I had no new carpet or furniture because it was just too expensive.then came MFI and later IKEA, Dunelm and The Range and the price of furniture and household decorations reduced dramatically and suddenly we were able to change our living space in every room and our external environment on a regular basis.

I remember the wallpaper in my grandparents' house, pretty flowered wallpaper that had been there from when they moved in, floral curtains and a floral carpet. It had a historic, lived in feeling of comfort but really nothing matched and new items, if there were ever any, were limited and functional, usually presents or brought by friends from far off lands.

Today the new trends are a yearly process with colour groups suggesting the newest looks for the season. The most noticeable recent style was the bright large flowered

STYLE FOCUS

With Janet Timmis



feature wallpaper which gave us our high-light colour for cushions and ornaments, red and duck egg blue seemingly the most popular. Comfy leather sofas and large corner units.....the coffee table was also back.

This year has several very strong styling trends for our homes, the first is nature, delightful birds and flowers, feathers, fauna and flora covering our walls in subtle beautiful natural colours, intricate, delicate botanical designs.

There are also the wallpapers that give a complete location image, a feature wall of a forest scene, countryside location, cityscape, beach or even bespoke art. Incredible artwork with lifestyle theming.

Textural looks with illusional printed brickwork, wooden plank imagery, 3D designs and linen rough cloth, leather and concrete.



Eating late and watching TV will harm your sleep



A favourite toy can reassure children



Jo Frost reading with children at the launch of Bath Book Bed in London

Keep it simple to give youngsters a good sleep



Childcare expert Jo Frost

THE secret to getting a good night's sleep when you're parents of young children is simply: Bath, Book, Bed, TV nanny Jo Frost tells Lisa Salmon

Exhausted parents of babies and young children say they'd pay thousands of pounds to end sleepless nights.

But TV nanny Jo Frost insists they don't need to pay a penny to get a decent night's sleep – just stringently adhere to the routine of bath, book, bed with their child.

Frost is supporting the new BookTrust Bath Book Bed campaign to encourage the fundamental bedtime routine, which will help all the family sleep well, encourage a love of reading, and promote the bond between parent and child.

Frost, who found fame in TV's Supernanny, says: "Sleep deprivation is the most common complaint I hear from parents of young children. Tired parents and tired children is a recipe for disaster.

"But the solution doesn't need to be complicated regimes or expensive gizmos. A routine as simple as bath, book, bed can get young children to settle so everyone can benefit from a good night's sleep."

A survey of a thousand parents with children aged three and under by the reading

Report by Lisa Salmon

charity BookTrust found 78 per cent believe lack of sleep is the hardest part of being a new parent, with many claiming they'd pay more than £10,000 to put an end to sleepless nights.

More than half of parents (60 per cent) say they want guidance on having a consistent and successful routine to get their child to sleep at night, which prompted BookTrust to team up with Frost to launch Bath Book Bed.

Frost, who has been a nanny for more than 20 years, says: "Story time is an integral part of a bedtime routine – it strengthens children's vocabulary and literacy skills, and enables them to foster a love of reading.

"Kids need to feel safe and secure when they sleep, and when you spend quality time reading stories to them, you wind yourself down as well as your children through the love of storytelling.

"It can be tactile too – you play with their hair and rub their back, they turn the pages."

She explains that the safe feeling provided by the routine not only helps children get to sleep, but relaxes them enough to give them a sound night's sleep and helps prevent night waking.

"The routine helps them wind down,

Then there is metallic gold, hugely important as a room highlight in sumptuous richly coloured spaces using fur and velvet to complement, even working well in a contemporary white or largely monochrome theme.

The love for colouring books, the newest trend, has also moved into the children's room with wallpaper covered in lined designs ready to colour in your choice of crayon, paint or ink, blackboard backgrounds and magnetic paint noticeboards. How wonderful to be a child actively encouraged to decorate the walls.

With all these delightful new ideas we now also mix and match with vintage and preloved pieces, repainted and given a new lease of life. The choice of paint is amazing, whatever theme you are trying to achieve there will be a medium to produce it.

Lighting is hugely important to give the atmosphere you want in these incredibly artistic rooms and today we consider the various moods we want in our living space and the process is complete.

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and there are fewer interruptions during the night because there's less anxiety as parents have given them their loving time before they go to sleep, and the child feels settled," explains Frost.

Frost advises parents to read to babies as soon as they're born, because the rhythm, tone and repetition helps establish a healthy routine and love for reading straight away.

"Once they've had that from such a young age it becomes an enjoyable part of their life," she says.

"Parents think there's some magic fairy dust that will help kids sleep, and there isn't – what you need is bath, book and bed. Encouraging parents to do it is a big deal."

The research also found that 71 per cent of parents with children aged three and under feel they have a shorter temper when tired and it affects their family life.

Frost says: "You're more irritable because you're exhausted, and you're almost feeling despair. The way to break that is through routine." She stresses that bedtime shouldn't be about TVs and tablets, pointing out: "It's not the same as having the reassurance and safety, security and comfort of their loved ones around them to nurture and look after them. It's my hope that families understand the enormous impact they can make in their children's lives with a few minutes of fun reading each night."

Poppies turn countryside bright red



Sea of red – Poppies in fields near Kingswinford and Wall Heath Picture: Barry Jones

THIS stunning view of bright red poppies was captured after they erupted into bloom across a field on the edge of Kingswinford.

June is the time of year when the iconic flower blossoms in England, turning fields into seas of red.

And this was a particularly wonderful display of the flowers in full bloom was photographed in a field between

Kidderminster Road, Lodge Lane and Swindon Road. The flowers can be seen stretching across the fields.

Poppies have long been a symbol of peace and the red-flowered corn poppy is used as a symbol for remembrance after the poppies were the first flowers to bloom on the former battlefields of Flanders after the First World War.

Penalty points trick failed

A DELIVERY driver's bid to avoid getting penalty points backfired but he was spared prison when his custodial sentence was suspended.

Matthew Perry was caught by a camera doing 41 mph in a 30 limit at the wheel of his firm's truck in Nuneaton on October 25. The notice of prosecution reached the 47-year-old via his employer on December 15 but when it was returned to the authorities on January 8 it named another

man who allegedly lived in Smethwick as the driver, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The address alerted officials because it had been used in several attempts at fraud, revealed Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting. Police launched an investigation which led back to the defendant who admitted paying a man in a pub £130 to make the ticket 'go away'.

Perry from Fenton Street, Dudley, who was of previous good character and represented himself, told the court: "I just want to apologise for my actions. I knew from day one

that I had done the wrong thing." He pleaded guilty to attempting to pervert the course of justice and was given a two-month prison sentence suspended for a year.

Judge James Burbidge QC told him: "This kind of offence strikes at the heart of justice and normally ends in custody for the person responsible. But you have admitted the offence, tried to make amends and were of good character, so the term can be suspended."

Perry has to pay £300 costs and had six penalty points put on his licence.

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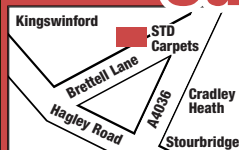
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Bonmarché

‘HalesOwen’ boat is insitu

EVE O’Connor, chair for Halesowen in Bloom, is pleased to announce the addition of the “Blooming Showstopper” for this year’s entry to Britain in Bloom contest.

The “Blooming Bostin’ Boat” took to its final resting place on May 23 and is now planted with drought resistant blooms.

“Thank you to K J Hudson Limited from Dudley who kindly provided the transport and crane to lift it into place,” says Eve.

“Thanks go to everyone at the Hawne Basin especially Gill and Jenny who organised this community project, together with Tony the boat builder who spent 80 hours constructing the flowerpot boat.

Signage

“It was then lovingly painted by the residents and volunteers at the Hawne Basin.

“Spencers Signs also contributed by supplying the vinyl signage for the boat free of charge.

“This goes a long way to show that if we all work together and do a blooming bit we can make a massive blooming difference. “This represents blooming Halesowen folk working together to make a blooming lovely gateway into Halesowen.”

● The theme of In Bloom continues to be Green Streets – Better Lives and everyone can take part by planting a few flowers in their front garden or providing hanging floral baskets.

There is always a need for volunteers and ideas as to what more could be done to improve Halesowen.

Perhaps run a smaller version of In Bloom locally?

Please contact Eve O’Connor if you are interested in supporting Halesowen in Bloom.

Tel: 0121 585 5495 or email: eve@cornbow.co.uk

Judging Itinerary for town’s bold display

FOLLOWING presentation of a portfolio of Halesowen in Bloom’s year round activities, the Judges will visit the St John’s Church bee hives.

A second hive has been installed and honey is expected later this year.

A minibus will convey the judges to the Mucklow Hill entrance to Leasowes.

This route is not the most attractive part of Halesowen, but many businesses approached have said they will tidy, weed and paint to improve the view. This is much appreciated.

The Leasowes wardens have planted new hedges and removed a sick tree to improve the park entrance.

Rotary are continuing their good work for Halesowen by funding a replacement mature tree.

The judges will meet Hawne Basin Boatyard staff to hear about the building of the ‘Hales Owen’, the Wardens who maintain and promote this local treasure and Friends of the Leasowes who have planted primroses on Leasowes Lane and a new butterfly friendly flower bed near the Warden’s hut.

The next stop will be at the Walled Garden, where an army of volunteers have turned an

overgrown junk yard into a pleasant and inviting garden.

The forest of weeds outside the walls has been upgraded to an orchard of 110 heritage fruit trees and allotments.

The next, expensive stage of providing a Visitor Centre and Traditional Greenhouse is being explored.

Next will be Queensway, outside the Church, to see Halesowen College students’ flowers and meet Halas Home residents who assisted in planting the magnificent 3,000 daffodil display outside the church, which was sponsored by Central Telecommunications and JPM insurance.

Finally the judges will be conveyed to Hagley Street to view the pseudo buttons display, representing Halesowen’s history, before walking back to the Church.

On the way the Judges will be serenaded by the Halesowen Ukulele Strummers, view the Halesowen Flower Club Shakespeare themed floral display in the Cornbow Centre and see some of the town’s floral displays.

At the Church the Quinton Quilters will display Wall Hangings made with Halesbury School.

To complete the judges tour they will take tea with the local press.

It should all make for a memorable visit.

Residents await judgement day

HALESOWEN has again been entered in the RHS In Bloom Contest and the judges will be inspecting the Town on Wednesday, July 20.

At the request of the Judges the route this year will include Leasowes Park and the Walled Garden.

The show stopping decision by the Council to cease free plant watering has been overcome through South Staffs Water offering access to their hydrants.

The thrice weekly watering will be undertaken by volunteers with hoses and watering equipment donated by the Karcher Centre, Wolverhampton. HiB are extremely grateful for this help that has enabled this year’s event to proceed.

There is also grateful thanks for the generosity of shops, businesses and residents for donating £6,000 to cover the cost of the Town floral displays.

The blooms this year will be in red, white and blue to

celebrate the Queen’s ninetieth birthday. The In Bloom contest is about much more than flowers and only half the judges’ marks are for horticulture, which includes floral displays.

The rest of the marks are for environmental responsibility and community participation.

Halesowen in Bloom takes a keen interest in the environment and community, so works closely with schools, the many splendid local community groups and the Managers of Dudley’s Green Care and Street Cleaning who are responsible for Halesowen’s appearance year round.

Dudley has won the national Street Cleaning award 5 times since 2005 and works closely to assist Community and Volunteer groups with litter picks and all activities for local improvements. Green Care manages and maintains all Dudley’s greenery with a keen interest in conservation and environment and offers horticultural advice and support to community groups, volunteers and schools.



Providing Halesowen in Bloom jackets, is (front) Colour Cubed director Simon Greenfield, with (left-right) chairman of Halesowen in Bloom Eve O’Connor, volunteers Nelson Slater, Amanda Owen, and Lorraine Smith

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A FAMILY-run fish and chip takeaway has secured first 'plaice' in the search for Dudley's Chip Shop of the Year.

Our Plaice, in Dudley Road, Halesowen, serves up traditional fish and chips in its own secret batter mix.

Oliver Howard, aged 24, who took over the chip shop in 2013, is proud of his win.

Current

He said: "My nan and grandad, Maureen and Mike, first opened up a chip shop in Colley Gate, Halesowen, in 1968 before coming to our current place in 1986.

"Then my dad, Paul, took over in 2005.

"I have been working for around 11 years.

"I took over three years ago after my dad stepped down and have never looked back since.

● Our Plaice was named Express & Star Dudley chip shop of the year. Tim Morris from the newspaper is pictured presenting owner Ollie Howard with his award



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HALESOWEN

Your town,
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THE Halesowen Chamber of Trade has shown that Halesowen town centre is still a thriving community.

The visible and practical work of the Chamber of Trade has really helped Halesowen's retailers.

The next logical step is for Halesowen to become a Business Improvement District, which will help change the way in which Halesowen High Street and the surrounding businesses interact with each other and visitors to the town.

Authority

BID's are important, and have proven to work effectively, because local traders no longer have to rely on the local authority.

This firmly puts local traders in charge, because you are the people who know what is needed for the town to thrive.

BIDs provide additional or improved services, identified by the local businesses.

Measures

This could include extra safety, cleaning or environmental measures.

It's up to local traders to shape the business environment they want to work in.

As Halesowen's MP I am encouraged by the work done so far, and I'm urging all local businesses to support this initiative.

James Morris, MP

Bidding to assist you

THE BID project is now well under way, moving rapidly towards a vote by all traders and businesses in October later this year.

Every business in the town centre has now been visited personally by the BID Development Manager Barry Wheeler, although he has not necessarily on that occasion been able to speak to the main decision maker at each location.

In those cases, a letter has been sent to the appropriate person.

Remember – every business is involved and has the opportunity to support the plans to take Halesowen forward into an even brighter future.

"As Halesowen Town Centre BID Development Manager, I urge you to come and be part of this exciting venture that can revolutionise our town for the benefit of us all," says Barry. "But, we do need your input, so come to at least one of the meetings, learn more of what it is all about and make your voice heard from the start."

Date, venue and time



BID Development Manager, Barry Wheeler

for the next open meeting – Cornbow Hall, Hagley Street, Cornbow Shopping Centre, Hagley Mall, June 24.

"We have an attractive town which working together as a team, we can revitalise its pride and attrac-

tion, says Barry. "The first opportunity for some time, to establish the team spirit to carry this forward is now to hand."

"Please try to attend the next open meeting to voice your opinions, suggestions and even doubts."

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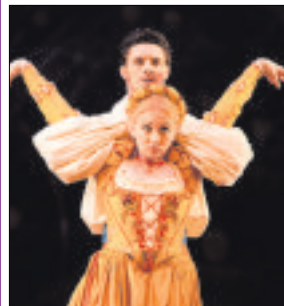
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The Institute,
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Call 0121 780 4141

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The Glee Club,
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Call 0121 780 3333

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Fri at 7.30pm - 10pm,
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Call 0121 780 3333

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Tue at 8pm - 10pm,
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Colmore Row, Birmingham,
B3 2QB. Call 0121 262 1840

Pete Churchill / Mishka Adams Quintet
Fri at 8.30pm,
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Laura Brownell, Jonathan French And Eden Walker
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Birmingham City University,
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Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

Festival Voices: Celebrating Shakespeare
Fri at 1.10pm - 2.15pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
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B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

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mac,
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Call 0121 446 3232

Peppa Pig's Surprise (Under 5s)
Wed at 1pm, 4pm, Thu at 10am,
1pm, £13.50 - £22.90
Palace Theatre,
Alcester Street, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Calamity Jane: BMOS Musical Theatre Company
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Queensway, Birmingham,
B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

From Stage To Screen
Sat at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre,
Alcester Street, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Little Shop Of Horrors
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Chicago
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at
7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

End Of The Rainbow
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm,
7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Cuttin' It
Fri at 8pm - 10.20pm, Sat at 8pm
- 10.20pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Be Festival 2016
Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7pm, Thu at
7pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Rocky Horror Show
Fri at 5.30pm, 8.30pm, Sat at
5.30pm, 8.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
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Call 01902 573320

COMEDY

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Thu at 7.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

James Cook: Board Game Smackdown: Edinburgh Preview
Sun at 7.30pm - 11pm,
Hare & Hounds,
Kings Heath, Birmingham,
B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Thu at 8pm,
The Glee Club,
Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Fri at 8.15pm, Sat at
8.15pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Jethro: 40 Years The Joker
Thu at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Ed Aczel: The Random
Flapping Of A Butterfly's Wings
Sat at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre,
Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Jimmy Carr: The Best Of, Ultimate, Gold, Greatest Hits Tour
Fri at 8pm,
Dudley Town Hall,
DY1 1HP. Call 01384 815577

David Cross: Making America Great Again!
Wed at 7pm,
The Institute,
Digbeth, Birmingham,
B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

TALKS

Dr John Cooper Clarke
Fri at 7pm, £16.50 - £26.95
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Young Artists
Sat at 1pm - 3pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Science Of Sound
Fri at 10am,
Symphony Hall, Broad Street,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Now Cyndi just wants to have fun



In the pink – Cyndi Lauper has recorded an album of her country music favourites, called *Detour*, and performs in Birmingham

QUIRKY New Yorker Cyndi Lauper, who lit up the 1980s pop scene with *Girls Just Want To Have Fun*, *True Colors*, *Time After Time* and *She Bop*, is in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, June 22.

After over 50 million sales to date, Cyndi's musical journey took an unexpected turn on her 11th studio album *'Detour'*, with the Grammy, Emmy and Tony-winning 62-year-old singer-songwriter putting her

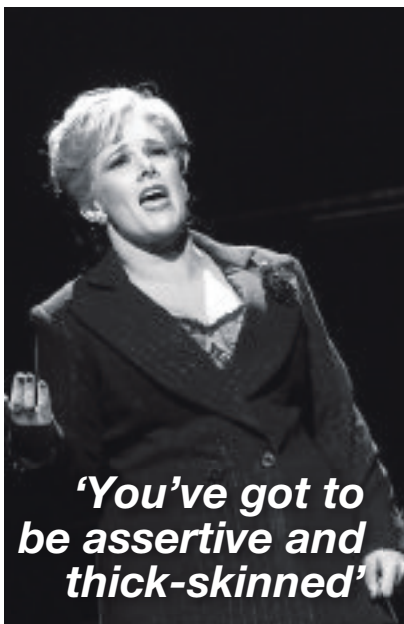
signature spin on a dozen classic country songs. The album, released last month, was a labour of love and showcases that unmistakable voice on country classics from the 1940s to '60s with guest appearances from country stars including Alison Krauss and Willie Nelson.

Cyndi recorded the album in Nashville with the city's top session players. She says recording a country album is something she's dreamed

about for years. She grew up listening to singers like Patsy Cline and Loretta Lynn in her Aunt Gracie's kitchen.

"When I was a really young kid, country music was pop music, so this is what we grew up listening to. These songs are part of some of my earliest memories," she says.

Cyndi wrote the songs for hit Broadway show *Kinky Boots*, now playing in London's West End.



'You've got to be assertive and thick-skinned'

Back to the cell block

X Factor winner Sam Bailey will be swapping her former real life role as a prison officer to play an inmate when the musical *Chicago* comes to Wolverhampton on tour next week.

The singer will play cell block boss Mama Morton when the 1920s-set jazz musical is staged at the Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Sam Bailey worked as a prison officer at HM Prison Garret for three years until 2013. At the end of that year Sam won the tenth series of the X Factor receiving more than a million votes over the course of the final weekend.

Following her win, her debut single *Skyscraper* was the Christmas chart-topper and was followed in 2014 with her debut album, *The Power of Love*, reaching number one in the album charts.

Asked if she would draw upon her experience for her role as prison fixer Mama Morton, Leicester mum-of-three Sam said: "You've got to be quite assertive and thick-skinned. I loved my job and miss the people. I have the utmost respect for anyone working in the prison system."

Hot shot lawyer Billy Flynn will be played by EastEnders actor John Partridge and Coronation Street's Hayley Tamaddon will play nightclub singer turned killer Roxie Hart.

Kander and Ebb's hit show, which was also made into a movie, features famous choreography by Bob Fosse. Tickets are on sale at grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

The production will also be at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre over the festive season as the city's musical alternative to panto.

Oh Bhoy, lots of comedy on the way

SCOTTISH comedian Danny Bhoy will be giving audiences in Wolverhampton a preview of his new show next month.

The funnyman is trialling his new material in a series of small shows around the UK. He will be at the Slade Rooms on Saturday, July 2.

Meanwhile, other comics heading to Wolverhampton include Mitch Benn at Wolverhampton Art Gallery on September 22 and Felicity Ward with her 50% More Likely To Die show at the same venue on October 16. Both are BBC Radio 4 regulars.

Tickets for all three shows are available online at the www.wolvescivic.co.uk website.

Showcase for talent taking to the stage

A FESTIVAL which celebrates local talent comes to Newhampton Arts Centre this weekend.

Enact Festival will see theatre companies showcase their work in performances and a networking fair.

Visitors will have the chance to share information, skills, experiences and opportunities with each other and members of the public.

It runs tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday and will include a performance showcases at 7.30pm on both evenings and a script-reading workshop from 2pm-4.30pm on the Saturday.

The arts centre is on Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton.

Buster brings ska legends to Robin

BUSTER Bloodvessel brings raucous ska legends Bad Manners to Bilston's Robin 2 venue tomorrow night (Friday) with special guest Max Splodge.

Other highlights at the Mount Pleasant venue this week include prog rockers Frost* on Sunday and American country blues rockers Hymn For Her on Tuesday.

Burntwood metal outfit My Brother The Wolf are at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Saturday. That's the same night punk veterans Angelic Upstarts play the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath and This Burning Age are at Sunflower Lounge on Smallbrook Queensway.

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CHOICE



Rhod Gilbert

UK's Best Part-Time Band Final (BBC2, 10pm)

The nationwide amateur band contest reaches its conclusion as the six finalists and their celebrity mentors try to outperform each other in a 'battle of the bands' concert at the Ritz in Manchester. Ultravox frontman Midge Ure selected two acts from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, while New Order basist Peter Hook picked the contingent from northern England. Jazzie B, meanwhile, chose the south's acts, picking out Garage punks King Salami. As each act performs an original tune and a cover song, members of the audience will vote to determine which group will be named Britain's Best Part-Time band. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Athletics: Diamond League Stockholm Highlights. **1.00** Tennis: Queens. The Aegon Championships semi-finals. **4.30** MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Iceland v Hungary (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.00 BBC News.

7.20 Regional Programme.

7.30 MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Portugal v Austria (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the second Group F encounter for both teams, which comes from Parc des Princes in Paris. Dominant qualifying campaigns for these two sides meant they went into the tournament as the favourites to progress from this group, and whatever the outcome of their opening matches, they will each see this as a vital fixture. The last meeting between the nations was a 1-1 draw 21 years ago. Since then the Portuguese have amassed far more experience in major tournaments than tonight's opponents, and will fancy their chances of victory should talisman Cristiano Ronaldo be on form. However, with the likes of Bayern Munich star David Alaba, title-winning Leicester City left-back Christian Fuchs and maverick Stoke City winger Marko Arnautovic among their ranks, the Austrians have their strongest side for many years. With commentary by Guy Mowbray and Martin Keown, and analysis by Rio Ferdinand and Alan Shearer.

10.05 The National Lottery Draw. Veteran pop star Rick Astley performs live in the studio, and pushes the Lotto button to reveal the all-important Lotto and Thunderball numbers.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes tries to solve son Dermot's relationship problems by giving his girlfriend advice, and Grandad ends up in hospital after Dr Flynn's attempt to read his temperature goes awry; (R) National Lottery Update.

11.05 Thierry Henry: My France, My Euros. The former France striker looks at European Championship stories. (R)

12.05 Film: The Hunted. (2003) **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Coast. (R) **6.50** Film: Without Reservations. (1946) **8.35** Film: Lucky Jim. (1957) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World - Elephants without Borders. (R) **12.00** Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes. (R) **12.30** A Cook Abroad: Dave Myers' Egypt. (R) **1.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **3.30** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.10** This Week's World. **5.50** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.20 Nature's Perfect Partners:

Natural World. Bill Bailey narrates this natural history documentary telling the story of some of nature's most extraordinary partnerships, revealing what sometimes happens when animals need an itch scratching, help getting into food or home security assistance. The answer is, to find a partner - and not necessarily one of the same species. Highlights include hippos joining forces with fish for a full-body exfoliation and ravens inviting wolverines over for some bone-crunching assistance with their dinner. (R)

7.20 The Liver Birds. Beryl loses her engagement ring while making Sandra a trifle, resulting in a mad rush to the hospital. Guest starring John Nettles. (R)

7.50 Comedy Connections. The story behind The Liver Birds, the influential sitcom charring the lives and loves of two single women sharing a flat in Liverpool. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Jonesy's van runs out of petrol and the platoon is forced to spend the night in a spooky deserted house, where the men's imaginations soon run wild. (R)

9.00 The New Tate Modern: Switched On. Andrew Marr and Brenda Emmanus attend the grand opening of the Tate Modern's new Switch facility, and shed light how director Frances Morris's plans to use the new space.

10.00 UK's Best Part-Time Band Final. The celebrity mentors and their acts progress through to the final, where they must play an original tune and a cover song to win the contest. Last in the series.

11.00 Versailles. A dissident duke tries to pressure Louis XIV to return the royal court to Paris; (R) Inside Versailles.

12.05 MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay. **1.45** Film: Silent Souls. (2010) **3.00** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** Looped. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.35** ITV News; Weather. **11.50** The Wine Show. **1.00** Euro 2016. Belgium v Republic of Ireland (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.30** Big Box Little Box. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** ITV News; Weather. **6.30** New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring a possessed toddler and a driver chasing a runaway car.

7.00 Catchphrase Celebrity Couples Special. Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langford, Brian McFadden and Vogue Williams, and Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer "say what they see" in a special edition of the game show. (R)

8.00 Endeavour. Shaun Evans returns as the young Inspector Morse in the first of four feature-length episodes. A baffling suicide, an anguished father searching for his missing daughter and the smash-and-grab robbery of medieval artefacts throw the detective in at the deep end as he resumes his role with Oxford City Police following a four-month absence from duty. As the locals go to the polls in a closely fought by-election and a beauty contest builds to its conclusion, Endeavour must navigate the choppy waters of both worlds as his investigation shakes the highest pillars of Oxford society. Co-starring Roger Allam, Anton Lesser and Sean Rigby. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather. **10.15** Euro 2016 Highlights. Action from the latest three matches in France, featuring Belgium v Republic of Ireland in Bordeaux, Iceland v Hungary in Marseille and Portugal v Austria in Paris.

11.15 Film: Carry On Camping. (1969) Two men hatch a plan to lure their unsuspecting girlfriends to a nudist camp and introduce them to a life of wild abandon. Bawdy comedy, starring Sid James.

12.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Motor Sport: British GT. **7.00** Bloodwise Blenheim Palace Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Royal Ascot: The Morning Line. **9.55** Fraser. (R) **10.25** Fraser. (R) **10.55** Formula 1: Grand Prix of Europe Practice. **3** Live. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** Formula 1: Grand Prix of Europe Qualifying Live. Coverage of the battle for pole position (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.20** Royal Ascot: Channel 4 Racing. Clive Balding and Nick Luck present continued live coverage of the fifth and final day. **6.00** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. Scarlett Douglas comes to the aid of Brighton-based couple Neil Massey and Afya Wajid, who hope to pick up a property on Ibiza in which they can entertain their friends.

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Goggleprogs. Following on from a pilot edition shown last Christmas, the Goggleprogs return for a six-part run in which they maintain a close eye on a range of TV output, from entertainment shows and documentaries to some all-time classic films and up-to-the-minute news stories. Participants include six-year-old Molly and her eight-year-old brother William who both love helping out on the family farm, Stephanie who adores Justin Bieber and her friend Christina who prefers classical music, and schoolmates Jacob and Connor. In this opening programme, the youngsters offer their honest, inimitable and ultimately hilarious take on The Undateables, Donald Trump and Mamma Mia! (R)

8.00 Film: Independence Day. (1996) A fleet of huge flying saucers launches a devastating and unprovoked attack on Earth. As survivors try to flee the seemingly unstoppable alien invaders, the courageous US president, an ace pilot and a computer genius come up with a plan to take the fight to the enemy and save the human race. Roland Emmerich's sci-fi adventure, starring Will Smith.

10.50 Film: Frankenstein. (2014) Premieres. Fantasy adventure, with Aaron Eckhart and Bill Nighy.

12.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.30** Royal Ascot Highlights. **1.55** Hollywoods. (R) **4.00** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.35** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. **12.05** Film: Star Trek: First Contact. (1998) Sci-fi adventure, starring Patrick Stewart. **2.10** Film: Columbus: The Most Dangerous Match. (1973) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Laurence Harvey. **3.35** Film: Columbus: Double Shock. (1973) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Martin Landau. **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High Court enforcement officers Paul and Steve make an extraordinary discovery inside a locked bedroom, and immediately call for police back-up. Brian and Graham head to Swindon Town football club to recover a debt, while Paul and Ben have difficulty evicting a couple from a house in Kent after learning they have six children and nowhere else to go. (R)

7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. Abby Scuto from the NCIS office in Washington, DC, heads to LA to help the team investigate a murder that may be the work of a serial killer she has been tracking. (R)

8.00 NCIS. The agents investigate a government organisation dedicated to child prodigies while researching the death of a marine whose body appeared in the middle of a field disguised as a scarecrow, and realise a 12-year-old could be the killer's next target. Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette star. (R)

8.55 NCIS. A woman is murdered at the home of Gunnery Sergeant Holt Perkins, and while the victim is initially assumed to be the marine's wife, analysis reveals her to be a convicted thief, presumed to be on the scene as part of a plot to 'Perkins' house. When the agents discover the calling card of notorious terror cell Dragon's Tooth on the body, it becomes clear the murder has been committed as part of a wider agenda, and the team joins forces with the Department of Defence to catch the killer.

9.50 5 News Weekend. **10.00** Big Brother. **11.05** Stephen Merchant: Hello Ladies. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** To B&B the Best. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Aliens: The Big Think **8.00** Natural World: Chimps of the Lost Gorge **9.00** The Disappearance **10.45** Lionel Richie at Glastonbury **11.45** Glastonbury Golden Greats **12.40** Disco at the BBC **1.40** Top of the Pops. 1981 **3.00** Lionel Richie at Glastonbury **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.25 Ninja Warrior UK **12.30** Educating Jey Essex: Reem Queen at 90 **1.30** Film: The Bachelor (1999) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35** Film: The Bachelor (1999) **3.30** Film: Nancy Drew (2007) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35** Film: Nancy Drew (2007) **5.30** FYI Daily: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.30** FYI Daily **6.35** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.15** Film: Along Came Polly (2004) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** Film: Along Came Polly (2004) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** The Cleveland Show **2.10** The Vampire Diaries **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.40 Foyle's War **2.50** Midsomer Murders **6.55** Doc Martin **8.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **9.00** Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Donny Osmond **10.00** Foyle's War **12.00** Bouquet of Barbed Wire **1.05** City Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

12.00 Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **1.05** Film: Gunsnsnake (1953) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15** Film: Gunsnsnake (1953) **2.50** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: Smokey and the Bandit (1977) **4.40** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **6.30** World Series of Darts: Auckland **11.30** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **11.30** Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **1.30** Hell on Wheels **2.20** Highway Patrol **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

F4

3.30 The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Sleepy Hollow (1999) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** Gogglebox **2.15** The Inbetweeners **3.15** New Girl **3.35** The New Normal **4.20** Revenge **Film4** **11.00** The River's Edge (1957) **1.10** The Spy Next Door (2010) **2.50** Thunderbirds (2004) **4.40** Ladder 49 (2004) **6.55** Fantastic Four (2005) **9.00** Safe House (2012) **11.15** The Raven (2012) **1.25** Dead of Night (1974) **3.15** Close

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CHOICE



Question Time EU Special: The Case for Remain (BBC1, 6.45pm)
David Dimbleby hosts the second of two live programmes in which leading political figures outline the arguments on both sides of the EU referendum debate and field questions from an audience of voters. In last week's first edition, Justice Secretary Michael Gove presented the case for leaving the European Union in a debate from Nottingham, while in tonight's programme, Prime minister David Cameron appears in Milton Keynes and discusses the advantages for the UK in retaining its membership of the EU.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Flog It! (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Liffeline. **3.40** Songs of Praise. **4.15** Koko: The Gorilla Who Talks to People. (R) **5.15** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Countryfile. **6.45** **Question Time EU Special: The Case for Remain.** Prime minister David Cameron answers questions on the case to remain in the EU to a live audience in Milton Keynes, ahead of the referendum on Thursday, June 23. **7.30** **MOTD: Euro 2016 Live.** Switzerland v France (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the third and final match of Group A for both teams, which takes place at Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille. These nations also faced each other in the final match of the group stage at Euro 2004 in Portugal, and on that occasion it was the French who emerged triumphant as they recorded a 3-1 win. If that doesn't leave the Swiss feeling as though they have a score to settle, then the 5-2 trouncing they suffered in a group-stage match at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil surely must, especially given that the two goals they managed to score came during the last 10 minutes, when it had effectively ceased to be much of a contest. France were in rampant mood on the night, with five different players getting on the scoresheet, and while some of the Swiss squad may still carry emotional baggage from that encounter, they can at least look to head coach Vladimir Petkovic for assurance given that he has replaced Othmar Hitzfeld, who was previously in charge. **10.05** BBC News. **10.25** Regional Programme. **10.35** Room 101 - Extra Storage. Frank Skinner welcomes Pointless co-host Richard Osman, broadcaster Joan Bakewell and comedienne Roisin Conaty to discuss their pet hates. (R) **11.15** Film: **Moonlight Mile.** (2002) Drama, with Jake Gyllenhaal and Ellen Pompeo. **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes. (R) **11.30** A Cook Abroad: Tony Singh's India. (R) **12.30** Film: The Seven Little Foys. (1955) Vaudeville biopic, with Bob Hope. **2.00** Tennis: Queens. The Aegon Championships final. **5.30** Rowing World Cup: Poland. Action from Lake Malta in Poznan. **6.30** **Flog It!** People are invited to try to make money out of their antiques by taking a risk at auction. (R) **7.00** **Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure.** Ed Byrne and Dara O Briain travel south through the Costa Rican mountains, where they learn how to herd cattle on horseback at a ranch before visiting an animal rehabilitation centre. They then explore the capital San Jose on election day before driving over the Cerro de la Muerte - which translates as the Mountain of Death. They then cross into Panama and experience the wonders of the world-famous canal linking the Atlantic to the Pacific, before heading to their final destination at the town of Yaviza, where the Pan-American highway comes to an end. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** **Top Gear.** Chris Evans, Matt LeBlanc and Sabine Schmitz each buy a second-hand car and drive to Venice. Professor Brian Cox and Bear Grylls are this week's Stars in a Rally Cross Car. **9.00** **City in the Sky.** Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry examine the process of bringing a plane safely to the ground, meeting air traffic controllers at the world's busiest airport. Last in the series. **10.00** **Mock the Week.** (R) **10.35** **Stage Man, Smart Phone.** Olympic athlete Jenny Jones joins Russell Kane on a Costa Rican island that is teeming with deadly snakes and scorpions and scorched by baking temperature. Last in the series. **11.25** **Flat TV.** Tom looks after Aoife's mischievous nephew in a bid to impress his new neighbour. Last in the series. **11.45** **The Millionaires' Holiday Club.** (R) **12.45** **MOTD: Euro 2016 Match Replay.** **2.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.25** Holy City. (R) **4.25** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Bargain Round Britain with John Sergeant. (R) **11.30** Weekend Escapes with Warwick Davis. (R) **12.00** Masterpiece with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) **1.00** ITV News: Weather. **1.15** Catchphrase. (R) **1.50** Regional Programme. **2.00** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **2.30** Film: Evan Almighty. (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Carell. **4.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.25** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.40** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** **Emmerdale.** Belle angrily confronts Lachlan, who confesses his love for her. She is forced to tell Lisa the truth about her relationship with Dr Bailey before she is arrested for the break-in. **7.30** **Coronation Street.** Lee informs Billy he is holding Sarah hostage and will release her in return for £1,000, while Alex offers to drive Gemma to the cemetery to visit Callum's grave. **8.30** **Vera.** When the remains of a teenager are found half-buried in a wood, Vera finds herself investigating a 30-year-old mystery. Identified as Carrie Telling, a girl who disappeared during the 1984 miners' strike, the team retrieves news footage from the protests that shows her taking pictures in the background. It appears she got caught up in the unrest that day, contradicting her father's assertion that she went straight home. Photographs recovered from her camera yield further revelations for Vera. What did Carrie discover that ultimately led to her death? (R) **10.30** ITV News: Weather. **10.45** **Euro 2016 Highlights.** Action from the latest two matches in France, featuring Switzerland v France at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille and Romania v Albania at the Stade de Lyon. **11.45** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R) **12.35** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Newscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Salvage SOS. **6.35** Salvage SOS. **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** IPC Athletics European Championships 2016. **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.00** Formula 1: Grand Prix of Europe Live. Coverage of eighth round of the season (Start-time 2.00pm). **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick and Angel only have a few weeks to prepare for their wedding, but the chateau is nowhere near ready to receive the 200 guests they have invited and finding reliable, affordable workers is proving difficult. Dick oversees the damming of the moat and the installation of a new, eco-friendly sewage system, while Angel turns her attention to giving the rooms a distinctive decor. Last in the series. **8.00** **Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service.** The actress visits Hillsborough Castle, the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland. She discovers the daily routine of the household staff during a royal visit, and flicks through a scrapbook of mementos dating back to 1925, which provides an insight into how life in the royal family has changed over the years. She also meets the Queen's bugler, finds an unexpected treasure from the 1953 coronation tour and discovered how in 2012, the Queen played a simple but vital role in uniting two fractured communities in Enniskillen simply by crossing the road. **9.00** **Film: August: Osage County.** (2013) Premiere. Three estranged sisters return to their family home following their father's suicide, and resume their complex relationship with their overbearing, malicious mother. Over the day of the funeral, tensions among the family reach boiling point as secrets and recriminations are brought to light. Drama, starring Meryl Streep. **11.25** **Formula 1: Grand Prix of Europe Highlights.** (2011) 2.20 **Building Hitler's Supergun: The Plot to Destroy London.** (R) **3.15** The Restoration Man. (R) **4.10** Jimmy's Australian Food Adventure. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Access. (R) **11.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **11.40** Now That's Funny! (R) **12.40** Film: Tinker Bell. (2008) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Mae Whitman. **2.10** Film: A Zebra's Tale. (2013) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Jake T Austin. **3.45** Film: Open Season 2. (2008) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Joel McHale. **5.15** Film: The Shaggy Dog. (2006) Comedy remake, starring Tim Allen. **7.00** **The Secret Life of Kittens.** Part one of two. Documentary following kittens from birth to 12 months old, revealing how they fight, smells and sounds they experience and the friends they make during this period create indelible impressions and shape their unique personalities. Cameras capture all the formative moments, including their first exploration of their home environment, their curtain-climbing acrobatics, and the first time they venture out to meet the neighbourhood cats. (R) **8.00** **Now That's Funny!** Featuring the wonders of virtual reality, some outrageous employees of the month, and a guide to dating. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. **10.00** **The Best of Bad TV.** The series charting TV gaffes continues with a look at 2000s, a decade which brought the rise of the reality star and dubious game show formats. (R) **11.20** **20 Moments That Rocked the 00s.** Lauren Laverne presents a countdown of some of the most memorable moments from the decade. (R) **12.45** Lip Sync Battle: Will Arnett v Alison Brie. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 James May at the Edge of Space
7.30 MOTD: Euro 2016 Live. Romania v Albania (Kick-off 8.00pm). **10.00** Schönbrunn Summer Night Concert from Vienna **11.30** Wonders of the Universe **12.30** Pompeii: The Mystery of the People Frozen in Time **1.30** Rise of the Continents **2.30** The Treasure Hunters **3.30** Close
ITV2
2.00 Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **3.00** FYI Daily **3.05** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **4.10** Film: The Perfect Man (2005) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: The Perfect Man (2005) **6.15** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **8.00** Educating Joey Essex: What EU Sayin? **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Educating Joey Essex: What EU Sayin? **2.15** Telephoning **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.25 Film: Columbo: Now You See Him (1976) **1.20** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.25** Film: Les Misérables (1978) **4.35** FYI Daily **4.40** Film: Les Misérables (1978) **5.55** Bargain Round Britain with John Sergeant **6.25** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.25** Sunday Night at the Queen **9.30** Cameraman to the Queen **10.35** Film: The English Patient (1996) **11.40** FYI Daily **11.45** Film: The English Patient (1996) **1.45** Film: Columbo: Now You See Him (1976) **3.20** May the Best House Win **5.00** Judge Judy
ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.15** Sporting Funnies **6.25** The Wine Show **7.30** World Series of Darts: Auckland **10.30** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **11.30** Film: Rambo III (1988) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35** Film: Rambo III (1988) **1.35** Ax Men **2.35** Movies **Now 2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen
E4
1.30 The Big Bang Theory **2.30** The Big Bang Theory: Father's Day **8.00** Film: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) **10.25** Gogglebox **12.35** The Inbetweeners **1.40** Tattoo Fixers **2.40** Rude Tube **3.10** The New Normal **3.30** Hollyoaks
Film4
2.45 The Last Mimzy (2007) **4.35** Chalet Girl (2011) **6.25** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **8.50** Independence Day: Resurgence Interview Special **9.00** i, Robot (2004) **11.20** The Negotiator (1998) **2.05** Conspirators of Pleasure (1996) **3.50** Close



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27-2 Sept	ISLE OF WIGHT-SHANKLIN	19th	HUGHENDEN MANOR (NT)	£35.00 £34.00
31-4 Sept	ILFRACOMBE	20th	ELAN VALLEY & RED KITES	£35.00 £34.00
SEPTEMBER		25th	WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAY	£44.00 £42.50
5-9	TORQUAY	26th	BODNANT GARDENS (NT)	£36.00 £35.00
10-11	BUCKINGHAM PALACE	27th	ALTHORP HOUSE	£40.00 £37.00
10-15	LLANDUDNO	28th	MIDSOMER COUNTRY	£26.00 £25.00
10-17	ST IVES - CORNISH COAST	29th	AVON GORGE CRUISE	£38.00 £37.00



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The World's Fastest Indian, BBC2, 3.15pm
A pensioner motorbike enthusiast travels from New Zealand to the salt flats of Utah in the hope of getting a chance to break the world land-speed record on his vintage Indian Scout. However, he encounters many obstacles, since not everyone he meets on his journey shares his passion and optimism. Fact-based drama, starring Anthony Hopkins. (2005)

TUESDAY

Columbo: Lovely but Lethal, ITV, 12am
A cosmetics company is rocked by the revelation that a pirated version of their latest product is on the market, and then, shortly afterwards, one of their chemists is found murdered. But when the shabby sleuth scrutinises the case, he suspects the events are linked to a rival company. Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. (1973)



Defiance, Thursday, BBC2, 10.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Heart of the Country, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The wife of a Wall Street stockbroker finds her glamorous existence brought crashing to a halt when her husband is imprisoned for fraud. Forced to return to rural North Carolina where she grew up, she attempts to make peace with her estranged father and deal with unresolved issues surrounding the death of her mother. Drama, starring Jana Kramer. (2013)

THURSDAY

Defiance, BBC2, 10.30pm
Three Jewish brothers escape into the woods during the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, and launch a series of guerrilla attacks on German forces. As word of their actions spreads, other refugees join them to form a larger resistance movement. However, one of the brothers fears their struggle is doomed. Second World War drama, starring Daniel Craig. (2008)

FRIDAY

A Few Best Men, BBC1, 11.40pm
An Englishman falls in love with a woman he meets on holiday in Australia, and asks her to marry him. However, he then makes the mistake of bringing three friends over to be his best men. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel and Laura Brent. (2011)

Famous faces look to serve up a tasty treat

The pots and pans have hardly had time to be washed and dried from the last series of MasterChef, but it's already time for a new series of the Celebrity incarnation.

Once again, John Torode and Gregg Wallace are putting a host of famous faces through their paces, and one of the show's executive producers, David Ambler, thinks this year's contestants are another strong bunch.

"We've got a fantastic line-up of willing celebrities ready to commence culinary battle," he says.

"John and Gregg really push the celebs to reach for the culinary heights and there's no shortage of entertainment and drama.

"Despite the blood, sweat and tears we see some of the best food we have seen in our 11 years of doing the show."

The other executive producer Carla-Maria Lawson agrees:

"This year's celebrities come from an incredibly mixed range of backgrounds and the diversity of their

life experiences is reflected in their food.

"This is one of the most passionate groups of celebrity cooks we've ever had on MasterChef."

TOWIE star Amy Childs and Strictly Come Dancing pro Gleb Savchenko are among the celebs who will have their spatulas at the ready in a bid to impress John and Gregg over the next six weeks.

Fresh from his turn on The Jump is ex-EastEnders Sid Owen, who will go up against fellow Walford resident Laila Morse. Keeping up the pop star contingent is Blue singer Simon Webbe, who has already tested his nerves on I'm A Celebrity...., and former Sugababe Amelle Berrabah.

On the sporting front, former England rugby player Neil Back will also be attempting to whip up some impressive dishes, as will Olympic gold medal-winning boxer Audley Harrison.

Paralympian Liz Johnson will also compete in the kitchen along with former pop star Richard Coles.

Other additions to the line-up include Shameless star Tina Malone,

presenters Cherry Healy and Louise Minchin, and Antiques Roadshow's David Harper.

The first famous faces taking part tonight and beginning their quest to succeed 2015 champ Kimberly Wyatt are comedian Tommy Cannon, TV presenter and actress Donna Air, writer and presenter of The Real Hustle Alexis Conran, YouTube vlogger Marcus Butler and singer Sinitta.

Their opening Mystery Box challenge is to use ingredients including squid, lamb mince and chickpeas to create a single dish.

Then, the quintet are split up and dispatched to two different restaurants to cater for paying customers.

Finally, they get one last chance to impress John and Gregg with a two-course menu of their own design before one of them is sent home.

The 11th series will see the infamous Mass Catering Challenges being held at Arsenal Football Stadium, Battersea Power Station, Virgin Atlantic Training Centre and Olympic Athlete training facility Bisham Abbey.



Celebrity MasterChef, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Euro 2016
ITV, 7.15pm
Slovakia v England (Kick-off 8.00pm). All the action from the final Group B game for both countries, which takes place at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard in Saint-Etienne. These sides have only met three times in the past, with the most recent clash coming in a friendly encounter in March 2009. Wayne Rooney netted twice in a 4-0 win at Wembley Stadium that night, with Emile Heskey and Frank Lampard also on the scoresheet. The format of the tournament this time means that four of the teams finishing third in their group will progress to the last 16, along with the winners and runners-up, meaning the final fixtures in each group are likely to take on even greater relevance. Presented by Mark Pougatch, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle, and analysis from Ian Wright, Peter Crouch and Lee Dixon.

TUESDAY

EU Referendum: The Great Debate
BBC1, 8pm
With just a few days to go until we face the biggest European Union shake up in decades, David Dimbleby, Mishal Husain and Emily Maitlis are on hand to present this offering – one of the biggest

debates of the EU referendum campaign, live from the SSE Arena, Wembley in London. Featuring high-profile politicians, business people and cultural figures who will debate Britain's membership of the EU in front of an audience of thousands. Plus, reaction from the world's media and the BBC's reality check team

WEDNESDAY

Rescue Dog to Super Dog
Channel 4, 8pm
More than 100,000 dogs are abandoned in the UK each year, with many of the pooches ending up at rescue centres. However, as this heart-warming three-part series has shown, help is at hand in the form of a new initiative retraining rescue dogs as companions for people with disabilities. In tonight's concluding part, the team helps find a helper dog for Manchester-based Paula who has a faulty immune system. She is matched with a boxer called Stanley, and hopes a dog will be able to help her with challenging daily tasks and provide her with invaluable companionship. Meanwhile, second-year student Ellie has cerebral palsy and

desperately needs support as she strives to become an independent adult. Will rescue puppy Zamba be the answer?

THURSDAY

What Britain Buys
Channel 4, 8pm
Mary Portas presents this occasional look at how Britons shop and which products they buy, focusing on the growing popularity of contactless spending on cards, phones and even watches. She also looks at the trend for putting snail slime on the face, and face masks for the bottom, and at the millions of mums – and dads – doing the school run in leggings. Plus, how singing in the car has made dashcams the latest motoring must-have, and the way smart toys are affecting children's play.



Glastonbury 2016, Friday, BBC2, 10pm

FRIDAY

Oscar Pistorius: The Interview
ITV, 9pm
He was once hailed as a Paralympic hero and an inspiration to people around the world – but all that changed when Oscar Pistorius shot and killed his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentine's Day 2013. Last year, South Africa's Supreme Court convicted him of murder, overturning the previous conviction of culpable homicide, and he is currently awaiting sentencing, which is expected to be delivered later this month. Here, Pistorius gives his first television interview about the events of that fateful night as investigative journalist Mark Williams-Thomas questions him about the key details of the prosecution case, his relationship with Reeva and the allegations of previous abusive behaviour. The Steenkamp family were asked to take part in the programme, but declined.

Glastonbury 2016

BBC2, 10pm
New series. From their bird's eye studio view high up at Worthy Farm in Pilton, Somerset, presenters Jo Whaley, Mark Radcliffe, Lauren Laverne, Huw Stephens and roving reporters Gemma Cairney and Martin Dougan report on events at the world-famous music event.

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BRAIN GYM No.382

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

16 16 23 1 24 18 13 7 4 17 19 13 24 26 14 14 13 24 3 13 5 14 10 1 15 5 17 20 19 6 1 5 26 11 10 16 10 11 23 26 24 22 13 6 15 17 17 10 15 26 8 A N 24 10 6 24 3 15 6 15 3 1 24 12 17 13 1 15 5 3 17 15 7 15 25 14 13 11 21 15 1 26 24 16 6 15 16 7 1 5 13 26 7 16 10 10 11 16 8 2 26 13 9 24 9 24 13 1 24 10 11

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
C L U I F B V J S A X Y N
G D W P H O M R T Z E K Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 7. Get out of bed (6)
- 8. Feel in for a change, like a cat (6)
- 10. The head cleaner! (7)
- 11. Information that is to be found in the Arabian Nights (5)
- 12. Escape from a rifle encounter (4)
- 13. Speeds regulated by local authorities (5)
- 17. A possibility of power (5)
- 18. Hotel employee brought to book (4)
- 22. One may slip and fall into it (5)
- 23. Flower in my control (7)
- 24. Humble a good man, after a fashion (6)
- 25. I left first followed by a Shakespearian heroine (6)

Down

- 1. Doesn't encourage delays (4,3)
- 2. Small cask for fresh water - or sea water (7)
- 3. Circles a strange sloop (5)
- 4. Worked to rule? (7)
- 5. Huge portion of Norwegian trout (5)
- 6. Even turned up it's the same (5)
- 9. Out to make one uneasy? (3,2,4)
- 14. Conversation becomes pointless if you do (7)
- 15. Special gifts of money (7)
- 16. Some people face it with resolution (3,4)
- 19. Appears to look at some writing (5)
- 20. Cured in a rough way (5)
- 21. Legally prevent poets being translated (5)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Quick Clues:

Across

- 7. Source (6)
- 8. Force (6)
- 10. In addition to (7)
- 11. Name (5)
- 12. Not one (4)
- 13. Subject of discussion (5)
- 17. Mar (5)
- 18. Unaccompanied (4)
- 22. Caper (5)
- 23. Idea (7)
- 24. Worthless (6)
- 25. Shiver (6)

Down

- 1. Join together (7)
- 2. Disagree (7)
- 3. Discovers (5)
- 4. Include (7)
- 5. Malice (5)
- 6. Change (5)
- 9. Partner (9)
- 14. Apparition (7)
- 15. Pardon (7)
- 16. Twist (7)
- 19. Fortunate (5)
- 20. Motionless (5)
- 21. Sham (5)

Sudoku

2 6 8 3 4 6 5 8 4 6 8 1 7 6 9 9 3 5 9 7 4 9 7 4 3 2 5 1 2 4

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4 9 1 2 8 6 5 7 3 5 8 7 1 4 2 9 6 7 6 2 3 5 9 8 1 4 9 2 7 5 3 8 4 6 1 5 4 3 6 9 1 7 2 8 8 1 6 4 7 2 3 5 9 1 3 5 9 4 7 6 8 2 6 8 4 1 2 5 9 3 7 2 7 9 8 6 3 1 4 5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Usage; 4 Lucifer; 8 Instant; 9 Lying; 10 Eats; 11 After all; 13 Ties; 14 Mace; 16 To be sure; 17 Tame; 20 Oscar; 21 Mustard; 22 Slowest; 23 Ruler. Down: 1 United Nations; 2 Asset; 3 Edam; 4 Let off; 5 Cul-de-sac; 6 Frigate; 7 Regular reader; 12 Sets free; 13 Tobacco; 15 Prompt; 18 Avail; 19 User. QUICK - Across: 1 Droad; 4 Portend; 8 Secrete; 9 Class; 10 Only; 11 Derision; 13 Brow; 14 Cede; 16 Reamost; 17 Pate; 20 Brain; 21 Eclipse; 22 Entreat; 23 Greet. Down: 1 Dishonourable; 2 Excel; 3 Deed; 4 Prefer; 5 Receiver; 6 Examine; 7 Disengagement; 12 Commence; 13 Blatant; 15 Ascent; 18 Ample; 19 Flag.

Quiz

- 1. According to the Old Testament, on which mountain did Moses receive the Ten Commandments?
- 2. Which great horror actor died in August 1994?
- 3. In which country was Princess Margaret born?
- 4. The Cherhill White Horse celebrates whose victory over the Danes?
- 5. Who was European Footballer of the Year in 1968?
- 6. To what did Burma change its name in 1989?
- 7. With which instrument is Miles Davis primarily associated?
- 8. What is a loquat?
- 9. What is the wife of a marquess called?
- 10. Of which religion was Joseph Smith the founder?

Last week's solutions:
Quiz: 1 Len Deighton; 2 Banana; 3 West Ham United; 4 France and Spain; 5 Lincolnshire; 6 Carl Orff; 7 Acacia; 8 Netherlands; 9 Sonia O'Sullivan; 10 El Cid.
Niner: OUTSAILED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

345925 gives a criminal,
67825 gives a workman,
12648 gives an evil spirit.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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3 SEP • ALADDIN • MATILDA
10 SEP • JERSEY BOYS • FUNNY GIRL
16 SEP • DANIEL O'DONNELL IN BOURNEMOUTH
17 SEP • CHICAGO THE MUSICAL & CHESTER
24 SEP • CHARLIE & CHOC FACTORY • KINKY BOOTS
1 OCT • MOTOWN • WICKED
8 OCT • SUNNY AFTERNOON • PHANTOM
15 OCT • LES MISERABLES
29 OCT • THE WIND AND THE WILLOWS IN SALFORD
29 OCT • MATILDA • JERSEY BOYS

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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
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5 DAYS FROM £199.95
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Britannia Hotel, Woolsington
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MON 18 JUL, 8, 22 AUG, 12 SEP, 3 OCT

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SAT 25 JUN, 16, 23 JUL, 6, 13 AUG, 29 OCT

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2 for 1 BAR 6pm-9pm (TBC APPLY)

5 DAYS £189.95
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Adelphi Hotel
• Includes Beatles Tour & Cavern Club, Mersey River Cruise & Visit to Chester
MON 27 JUN, 11, 25 JUL, 1, 15 AUG, 5, 19 SEP, 24 OCT

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4/5 DAYS FROM £179.95
3/4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Seascope/Barncourt Hotel
• Admission included to Eden Project
4 DAYS FRI 22, 29 JUL, 5, 12, 19, 26 AUG
5 DAYS MON 27 JUN, 18, 25 JUL, 8 AUG

5 DAY BREAKS £179.95 FROM

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27 Jun, 4, 11, 18, 25 Jul
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Aug

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27 Jun, 4, 11, 18, 25 Jul
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Aug

BOURNEMOUTH
27 Jun, 4, 11, 18, 25 Jul
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Aug

EASTBOURNE
27 Jun, 11, 25 Jul
1, 8, 15, 22 Aug

FOLKESTONE & OSTEND
27 Jun, 11, 18, 25 Jul
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Aug

LLANDUDNO
27 Jun, 11, 25 Jul
1, 8, 15 Aug, 5 Sep

ISLE OF ARRAN & LOCH LOMOND CRUISE

5 DAYS FROM £199.95
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Adamton House Hotel
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SOUTHPORT KESWICK & SEVEN LAKES

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4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Scarisbrick Hotel, Southport
• Includes visits to Keswick, Kendal Market, Morecambe, Arncliffe plus Severn Lakes Circular Tour
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5 DAYS FROM £229.95
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Café culture – The 28 Tram Café in Lisbon



Monument to the Discoveries at Belem



View from the terrace of The Insolito restaurant



Decor in the Bar Procopio, Lisbon

Lisbon has been brought up to date but still enjoys its historical glory

WHEN I lived in Lisbon 14 years ago, I stayed, rent-free, in a dilapidated 12-bedroom palacio owned by a bon vivant called Jorge who wafted through its crumbling corridors with an air of faded grandeur.

He typified an aristocratic capital since forgotten by the rest of Europe, where colourful characters eked out a fantasy existence by surviving on cheap rents.

For decades, Lisbon has been trapped in a wonderful time warp: specialist shops still sell products from behind wooden counters and weathered doorways reveal historic interiors untouched by years.

But now change is happening at an accelerating pace, and there's a palpable energy

By Sarah Marshall

in a city that's drifted aimlessly for so long.

According to figures collected by Lisbon's tourist board, the number of visitors to the city increased by 18 per cent from 2013-2015. To cope with the demand, there has been 150 per cent growth in hotel openings during the same period.

Flight access is also improving; earlier this month Monarch launched flights from Manchester, Birmingham and London to the Portuguese capital.

So what's the reason behind this drastic change? It's partly down to changes in government. Four years ago, a century-old law freezing rent charges was scrapped, sparking investment in rundown properties and a plethora of new restaurants and bars.

The results could have been disastrous. Fortunately, though, proud Lisboans pre-

fer to preserve their past rather than raze buildings and start again.

Once dominated by government offices and embassies, Rua Dom Pedro V and the Principe Real district is now filled with wine bars, fashion boutiques and design stores. Climb the wooden staircase of revamped 1800s neo-Moorish mansion Embaixada (Praca do Principe Real, 26) to find ornate interiors just as beguiling as the pop-up shops now housed inside.

Value

The concept of upcycling was key to the design of new hotel AlmaLusa Baixa/Chiado, which occupies a former arsenal on Praca do Municipio – another area of the city enjoying a new lease of life. Every aspect of the city offers great value for money.

In April, Post Office Travel Money rated Lisbon the cheapest city in Western Europe

in their City Costs Barometer. It's possible to dine for around £8 per head and even the 45-minute metro journey from the airport into town costs less than a couple of Euros.

This is one of the few European cities where independent businesses have the upper hand on generic big brands. From dusty, traditional stores to trendy new ones, local shops champion artisan Portuguese products such as paper-wrapped soaps, household linens and even canned fish.

Of course, Lisbon still bathes in the glory of its historical sites, including the Unesco World Heritage sites of Belem, linked to the Age of Discoveries. Standing beneath the Monument to the Discoveries, where statues of 33 navigators reach out to the River Tagus, I imagine a time when Vasco da Gama set sail to extend the Portuguese Empire. Right now though, there's so much on Lisbon's own doorstep to explore.

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"The 'from' price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here, often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe. The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again.

Omega Holidays offer a superb portfolio of theatre breaks, managing the whole show package which includes travel, either by coach or rail, four-star accommodation and various price bands for each show. Make your own way breaks are also available to book.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital.

There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday.

The ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail inclusive breaks – Three days

Theatre Showstopper from £239.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply).

Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night from £149.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.⁹⁵

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the evening performance (meal not included).

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket and the option to upgrade plus an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.



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Recently refurbished property with new kitchen and bathroom

Recently refurbished to a high standard, this immaculately presented three-bedroomed semi-detached property, 4 Bayleys Lane, Tipton, comes with a brand new bathroom and kitchen.

In a convenient location close to popular schools and with a block paved driveway, it is for sale through The Property Shop at £139,950.

Neutrally decorated throughout, it has an entrance hall with wood-effect laminate flooring and stairs off, a lounge with a bay window and a dining room with a sliding patio door.

The newly fitted kitchen has a range of wall and base cupboards with complimentary work surfaces over, plumbing and space for a washing machine, electric oven and hob.

Off the landing is the first bedroom which overlooks the rear garden, a second bedroom overlooking the front through a bay window and a third bedroom overlooking the front. The bathroom has a suite including a low level WC, panelled bath with a shower over, a wash hand basin and tiled splash backs.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "This property is in a very convenient location close to motorway links, amenities and popular schools and an early viewing is highly recommended. At The Property Shop property is our passion. We are an independent family run sale and lettings agency with branches that cover the Stourbridge, Netherton and Dudley areas. We have a proven track record of 12 years of helping people achieve their property dreams."

KEY FEATURES

Three bedrooms
Block paved driveway
Recently refurbished
Convenient location
Energy rating C

TIPTON £149,950



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HALESOWEN, Meadowbrook Road£775 pcm+Fees
Large 3 bed muddlow style semi-detached property features: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single, bathroom with shower, garage (storage only), private rear garden, driveway parking for multiple vehicles, gas central heating and double glazed. Ideally located for Huntingtree and Lutley Primary School. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Mayfield Road£695 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished detached bungalow set in a quiet cul-de-sac in this very popular residential area close to schools and bus links. Featuring large lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 double & 1 large single bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, front & rear gardens, garage. A property to be seen and appreciated. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Middlefield Avenue£650 pcm+Fees
Located in Hurst Green this unfurnished semi-detached house comprising of 26ft through lounge/dining Room, a fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and a further single. Benefits from a garage and driveway with low maintenance gardens. Very popular area. Viewings highly recommended. EPC: TBC



STOURBRIDGE, Queensway£625 pcm+Fees
A really deceptive and extended 3 bedroom property close to local shops and schools. This fantastic home has recently been fully refurbished, including central heating system, kitchen, shower room, doors and carpets! You really do need to view to appreciate the amount of accommodation on offer; there is even a summer house in the garden! driveway, fore/rear gardens. EPC: TBC



EDGBASTON, Shooters Close £575 pcm+Fees
Set in a quiet cul-de-sac. A stones throw away from Calthorpe Park. This semi-detached home comprising of: Two double bedrooms, large lounge, large kitchen, family bathroom, brand new double glazing, gas central heating, driveway, tiled bathroom with shower, study, gas central heating (under floor heating to kitchen & bathroom) double glazing, communal gardens and allocated parking. Available Now! EPC: TBC



STOURBRIDGE, King William Street£575 pcm+Fees
Refurbished mid terraced house close to town centre comprising of: 2 reception rooms, large kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs bathroom with shower and a shared rear garden. A lovely property not to be missed! EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Silverthorne Lane£525 pcm+Fees
A really well presented modern style 2 bedroom house close to Cradley Heath Train Station and bus links. Lounge with fireplace, large fitted kitchen with new oven/hob, patio doors to rear garden. Upstairs bathroom with shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. Minimum 12 month contract. EPC: C



KIDDERMINSTER, Patin House£515 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom ground floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house comprising of: porch, lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances and granite work tops, double bedroom, fully tiled bathroom with shower, study, gas central heating (under floor heating to kitchen & bathroom) double glazing, communal gardens and allocated parking. Available Now! EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Station Road£495 pcm+Fees
Set within lovely private gardens. Ideally located for Old Hill train station, local shops and buses for Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Merry Hill, an unfurnished ground floor apartment features 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge with sofa and dining table and chairs, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Walton Court£450 pcm+Fees
A spacious 1st floor flat surrounded by maintained communal gardens in a popular location. Comprises entrance hall with built in cupboard, double bedroom, fitted kitchen with marble effect work surface, separate utility room, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower over bath and shed. Available mid June. Garage not included. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£440 pcm+Fees
Set in the heart of Old Hill. A modern and spacious 2nd floor apartment, ideally situated for Old Hill train station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B



STOURBRIDGE, Bagley Street£425 pcm+Fees
COMING SOON!! 4 fully refurbished apartments (2 - ground floor & 2 - 1st floor) within a stones throw of Stourbridge town centre. The apartments feature an open plan lounge/ fitted kitchen, shower room, 1 double bedroom & private rear parking. Not to be missed! EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Cobham Road£420 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Offering generous accommodation including: lounge with, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, double glazing, on road parking, unfurnished. EPC: G



COVENTRY, Underhill Close£1,300 pcm+Fees
A great opportunity to rent this well presented modern 4 bedroom detached property in the sought after location of Finham/parish of Baginbun area. This double glazed, gas central heated house has entrance hall, cloakroom, large lounge, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, 4 good size bedrooms with 1 en-suite shower, 3 with fitted wardrobes, family bathroom, garage, driveway & low maintenance garden. EPC: D



KIDDERMINSTER, Grosvenor Avenue£795 pcm+Fees
Stunning 3 storey semi detached town house in a quiet cul-de-sac position within walking distance of Kidderminster train station. Completely refurbished to a very high standard. Front reception room, lounge with feature fireplace with wood-burner, modern fitted kitchen with appliances. Three large double bedrooms, beautiful bathroom with separate shower cubicle and a roll edged tiled foot free standing bath. Not to be missed. EPC: E



SUTTON COLDFIELD, Lichtfield Road£795 pcm+Fees
A delightful ground floor two bedroom apartment with an en-suite to master. The property has excellent links to Birmingham City Centre, being located a short walk from the railway station, is gas centrally heated and double glazed and is located in a gated complex with secure allocated parking. No Pets, no DSS. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£650 pcm+Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Surfeit Hill Road£645 pcm+Fees
A fully refurbished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large lounge/diner with access to the garden, modern fitted kitchen, shower to bathroom, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street North£575 pcm+Fees
Extremely well presented and surprisingly large end terrace with off road parking. Within walking distance to Halesowen, local bus routes and shops, comprises 2 bedrooms, nice lounge, attractive fitted dinner kitchen with white goods excluding washing machine, utility room, house bathroom with shower, a glorious court yard garden and gated driveway. EPC: E



CRADLEY HEATH, Trejon Road£525 pcm+Fees
An Unfurnished Detached House Within Minutes Of Old Hill Train Station, Haden Hill Leisure Centre And Close To Timbertree Primary School. Briefly Comprising Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Dining Room, Small Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front And Rear Gardens, Driveway For 1 Car. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Ladysmith Road£495 pcm+Fees
A mid terraced house in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, dining area, new downstairs shower room, 2 good size bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. EPC: TBC

PROPERTY



Well presented detached home with garden in convenient location close to town centre amenities

This very well presented property in Cherry Street, Halesowen, is located close to local shops, public transport and the town centre. It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £180,000 with no chain.

It briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, a fully fitted kitchen, pantry, two reception rooms, three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property further benefits from having an easy to maintain rear

HALESOWEN
£180,000

garden with patio, lawn, borders and garden shed.

Bay

A driveway to front has parking for up to two cars, gas central heating and double glazing.

In more detail, the entrance hall

has stairs off, the lounge has a bay window to the front of the property and also a living flame gas fire.

The living room has a gas fire and patio doors.

The kitchen includes a four ring gas hob with a cooker hood over, an integral oven/grill and floor tiling.

For further information about this property contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit the website www.hickshadley.com



Elegant, distinctive and extended Victorian family residence has arts and crafts features

An elegant, distinctive and significantly extended Victorian family residence in Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, was built in 1894 to a top quality design, incorporating arts and crafts features.

With still further potential and panoramic distant views, it is for sale through Taylors at £425,000.

The magnificent spacious accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, an imposing

SEDGLEY
£425,000

reception hall, a fitted cloakroom, a delightful sitting room (with projecting corner bay window).

Family

There is also a magnificent 39.9" dining/family room, an inner lobby, a kitchen, and a walk-in under-stairs pantry.

There are also four bedrooms, bedroom one with a shower room en suite and bedroom two with a projecting corner bay.

There is a bathroom, a cellar, extensive grounds, ample parking, a two car garage and further outbuildings.

For further information contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or visit the website www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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ANNE, 40, pretty professional fun female with great curves, looking for fun and romance with down to earth male looking for similar. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422711

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

PASSIONATE, broadminded curvy lady 67, seeks very assertive discreet younger male 25-45 for no strings fun, looks unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 5480845

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237

JULIE, petite, slim, attractive blonde young looking early 40's, enjoys wining, dining, theatre seeking good looking romantic male, 45-55, for mutual spoiling. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422709

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks discreet gent age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box No: 421375

WIDOW, 5ft2, looking for a gentleman for friendship, days out, meals out and for friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422657

WENDY, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box No: 421605

JEAN, 75, black hair, hazel eyes, medium build, likes dancing, singing, gardening, bingo, meals days out, Scotland. WLTm a gentleman any age for company and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422651

JESS, pretty blonde lady. 29yrs, feminine and caring. Loves older mature men who are worldly wise. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Text Only Box: 4000683

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PETRIANA, 44, very attractive, voluptuous blonde, with old-fashioned values, seeks romantic down to earth male for a special relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422717

BARBARA, brown hair, dark eyes, likes crafts, cooking, cinema, socialising, looking for a male friend, 30-35, possibly leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422589

JEAN, 75, lives in West Midlands, likes gardening, bingo, dancing, travelling, generally nice things, WLTm local gentleman for company and friendship, hoping to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422571

JOANNE, 48, curvy black female, likes cooking, cinema, socialising, seeking friendship leading to LTR, must be honest, romantic, caring and loyal and have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422633

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MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459

BIRMINGHAM female 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTm male 66 - 73 for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5474599

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422527

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PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, she's a friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422403

MERRY, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422339

BARBARA, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422411

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring, honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422469

CARING, honest female, WLTm genuine gentleman for LTR in the West Midlands area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422111

NICOLA 32yr old slim sexy single mum looking for fun times maybe more with similar open minded uncomplicated companion. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422487

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FEMALE, 67, young looking widow, 5ft2, green eyes, likes meals out, holidays, reading, WLTm gentleman of similar age, or older. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

KAREN 32 a hardworking petal blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

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ATTRACTIVE, mature Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, cooking, seeks attractive female, 30-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358113

CARING man, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394149

ATTRACTIVE Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, seeks attractive female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361467

JOE, 46, attractive male, GSOH, home/car owner, well travelled, seeking mature lady for friendship possibly more, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420665

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MALE, mid 60s, broadminded, WLTm female for intimate adult fun and pleasure. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422557

MALE, 59, 5ft2, seeks honest, caring lady, 45-60 for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422499

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SHAUN, 49, 5ft10, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, GSOH, OHAC, honest, romantic, animal lover, likes country pubs, walks along the canal and countryside, looking for somebody who is down to earth and fun loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396440

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2 E-mail us at... mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk

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lost & found



MISSING: DUSTY
Lost from Birmingham on
May 23, 2016.
Last seen Allerton Lane,
West Bromwich.
Please help us find our
beloved Dog.
Call Paul 07837 838632.

1
Family

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384
255019 / 07831 246292

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electric recliner chair, Verona wine
colour, 2 years guarantee, £400.
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WREKIN STAIRLIFTS recondi-
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2
Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

CLARACH BAY CARAVAN
PARK
ABERYSTWYTH

3 bedroom static caravan,
sleeps 8, CH, DG, timber
decking, fees paid 2016.

See view.
£11,995.
01902 441210/07816 272574



COSALT STATIC CARAVAN
Eleven months holiday use.
Within walking distance of
Stourport-on-Severn.
On park clubhouse.
Two bedrooms.
Garden shed.
Parking.
£5,850.
0781 0044813
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Compact Airline 280 with extras,
used one season, was £700 now
£375 ono. 07835 343146. Penn.

INFLATABLE AWNING Oxygen
Compact Airline 280 with extras,
used one season, was £700 now
£375 ono. 07835 343146. Penn.

STATIC CARAVAN 35 X 10
6-berth with decking, Mid
Wales. Site fees paid for 2016.
Dog friendly.
£4,500.
07922 351352 No texts.



STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE
2009, willerby static caravan,
36 x 12 with 3 bedrooms, great
condition, on a 12 month
holiday park near Worcester.
Please Call for more info.
£18,000
07476 459995.

VW T4 CAMPER 1.9TD, MoTd, V
reg, 140k, 2 berth, sink, cooker, 12
/ 240 volt, Pop top, awning, £6,995
ono. 07588 535797

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07776373150

CARAVAN WANTED cash on pick
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Call me on 07717 090817.

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£110.
01384 441885.

ticket

ASCOT TICKETS x 2, ladies day,
June 16, Queen Anne enclosure,
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TWO TICKETS for ELO, on June 24,
at Barclaycard Arena, C block.
Offers around £124 each. 07742
835429 or 01299 832156.

holidays

caravan holidays

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what's on

markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
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Rugby Club
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weddings

bridal/prom wear

BEAUTIFUL WINE taffeta full length
dress, beaded bodice detail, worn
once. Proms/Bridesmaid, size 8-10
Was £150. Sell-£70. 01902 893335

furniture

3
Home & Services

BIG IN BEDS
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OVER 1,000 MATTRESSES
IN STOCK TO TAKE AWAY

eg Small single quilted matts NSP £49. Sale
£19. Single luxury stitchbond regular matts
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quality matts singles £79 Doubles £99.
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OFF A461 2 MINS
FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
BIG CHOICE OF DINING FURNITURE

WANTED
Webley and Scott 700 possible
part exchange Beretta 686S.
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER in excellent
working order. £95 can deliver.
07493 916511.

CONSERVATORY furniture, 2 small
cane glass topped tables £50, cane
bookcase, £30, plant stand £10.
offers accepted. 01902 671540.

SINGLE 3 FT X 6 FT Bed, white steel
frame. With mattress, as new,
unused. £85. 01902 761701.

kitchens & bathrooms

SHOWER UNIT chrome glass,
rounded sliding doors, ceramic
base, two shower heads, suit combi
£120 ono. 07835 343146. Penn.

SHOWER UNIT chrome glass,
rounded sliding doors, ceramic
base, two shower heads, suit combi
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pc's, laptops & accessories

DELL LATITUDE £7250 Windows
10 with add on terabyte, as new,
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t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS: FREE
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Collections bought.
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Top prices paid.
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All areas covered
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Regulations 1998 to carry out
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Years Experience. Call Mark or
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Discounts offered.
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CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830670 / 01384 940260.

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20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office,
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Quality service guaranteed
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we are really busy!
It definitely
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Grinsells Skip Hire.
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0121 517 1111

4
Pets & Animals

pets corner

A BILLY Wilson Puppy, 3 quarter labrador black, hand trained to perfection, walk and stay, £350 plus vac, vet, chip, £395, 07332 654651.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KIND HOMES NEEDED FOR:
TARA, tan coloured little Lakeland Terrier cross, 10 years old.

BELLA big fluffy gentle cross breed girl, golden coloured, sweet nature.

ROXY 4 1/2 year old girl Dogue de Bordeaux, good in car with children, small for the breed but a bit overweight.

MEG young tan/white Border Collie, lovely gentle girl.

PHOEBE 5 month old Staffordshire Bull Terrier, typical puppy, playful.
01588 676106

KITTENS seven weeks old, flead and wormed, £40. Loving homes only. 01902 782005.

PURE BRED kittens and young pure breed cats, to loving, permanent homes only. £150. 01902 894458.

RAINBOW BABY BUDGIE as new cage and all accessories including food and sand sheet. £50 ono. 07716 847443.

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on **01902 319191**.

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

5
Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6
Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

CASTLECROFT Clean 1-bed flat, new kitchen, CH, DG, £106pw. 01902 340073 / 07770 680636.

MERRIDALE ROOM to let, £63pw inc most bill, not to be overlooked!! DSS ok. Call 07723 016692.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherthorn, from £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717138 or 07940 116130.

coast & country

EX SHOW LODGE

Fully furnished, in Shropshire Hills, near Clun.

Situated n small, select park. Two bedrooms. Two bathrooms. Bosch appliances. Wood burning stove. GCH.

12 months licence. Fantastic investment opportunity.

£85,000 ono.
01384 379713.

mobile homes

FOR SALE MOBILE HOME.



The Harrows Mobile Home Park, Coven.

Beautiful gardens, own car park space.

Please call for more details.

01902 798548.

FOR SALE PARK HOME Homelands Park, Bail Lane, Coven Heath, Wolverhampton, WV10 7EZ.

Excellent condition. Details 07983 431475.

overseas property

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Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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For items upto £250.

Online at **bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk**

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WE PAY 100% of purchase price

We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

WE ALSO BUY LAND

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Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

IT WORKS FOR ME

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

PROPERTY WANTED to rent, on long term basis by Mature couple, 3 bed with parking and garage. West Midlands area. 0772 0834041.

FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 1.2, Petrol 54 plate, MoT till Dec 16, 60,500 miles. Good runner. Perfect first car. £1,200. o.n.o. 07711 112491.

FIAT SEICENTO Sporting Hatch 1.1 2002, 621 petrol 62k 11 mths MoT. Body work excellent condition. low tax/ins. £695. o.n.o. 07884 215707

FORD FIESTA 02, 64k, AC, alarm, 3 months MoT, new battery, cambelt. £1,050. 01902 751418.

FORD MONDEO Estate 2.0 petrol, manual, LX, 02 plate, 12 months MoT, CD, very good condition, reliable. £595 ono. 07889 434584.

JAGUAR XJ6 1995, 3.2 litre, 150,000 miles, MoT August 2016. £500. 01802 898034.

MAZDA 6 STAKATA, 2005, 99,000 miles, blue, reliable runabout, MoT May 2016, service history, 2 new Pirelli tyres, £850. 07903 530573.

MERCEDES 220 Avant Garde CDI, auto, 02, MoT, FSH, 10 years in same Family, 2 owners, blue, all electric, £1,495. 07979 784585.

NISSAN MICRA Tempest, 3-dr hatchback, petrol, 1.0, 13 months MoT, £850. 07828 678711.

PEUGEOT 106 Y reg, 12 months MoT, clean car, good runner, £500. Contact 07900 590296 after 4pm.

PEUGEOT 206 02, hard top Convertible, MoT May 2017, very good condition, £750. 01384 251328 or 07972 169554.

PEUGEOT 306 LX 1400, 2000, X Reg., MoT 9 months, very clean and tidy, £755. 07572 687123.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE 3dr, 05 reg, 41,000 miles, FSH, CD player, EW, PAS, £1,195 ono. 07722 998594.

ROVER 45 Impression, 2004, 1.6, good condition, 12 months MoT, £500 ono. 01902 408850.

ROVER 75 DIESEL full MoT, 52, immaculate, heated seats, leather interior, new clutch, 1 owner, £750. 01384 251328 or 07972 169554.

SAAB 93 VECTOR 1.9 turbo diesel, 55 reg., 15h, 109,000 miles, half leather, £1,350. 07708 832841.

SKODA FABIA 1.4, 2005, 99,200 miles, blue, diesel, reliable, £350 ono. 01902 865151.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3CDTI Design, 2004, 115,000 miles, silver, electric windows, mirrors, MoT, central locking, CD, £1,095. 07973 814397.

VAUXHALL CORSA Club, 1.2, 16v, petrol, green, manual, 03 reg, long MoT, 92k, 2 previous owners, EW, AC, CL, £850. 01902 710070.

TOYOTA AVENTIS T3-X 2005, Diesel, 50-mpg, 164k miles, olive green, A/C, FSH, MoT, cambelt at 150k, all receipts, very good condition, £599. o.n.o. 07408 198046.

CHEVROLET MATIZ, 2008, 29,000 miles, red, long MoT. Super condition. Runs like new. £1,280 ono. 01785 712747.

DAIHATSU YRV RADICAL 2.1 13 months MoT, 03 Reg., red, face off CD, alarmed, good clean reliable car, £545. 07738 837137.

FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 1.2, 5 door, 2004 reg, light blue, only 68k, MoT. Excellent condition, only £795. Telephone 07399 675758.

FIAT BRAVO 120J MULTIJET DIESEL 1.6 top of the range, 08 reg., 6 speed, full MoT. Excellent condition £2,600 07789 893224.

cars over £1500

CITROEN XSARA Picasso Desire, 16v, 1.6, 2006, silver, CD radio, EW, EM, 84k, long MoT, excellent condition, £1545. 07738 837137.

FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 59 reg, 51,000 miles, white, electric windows, air bag, dealer fish, MoT till September, one owner, pas, bluetooth, new cambelt fitted by dealer. £1,895 ono. 01384 353045.

FORD FIESTA 2010, diesel, 3-dr, red, 54,000 miles, MoT, good condition, £20 road tax. £3,500 07828 678711.

FORD FUSION 2 2005, 37,808 miles, silver blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, stereo, CD. £1,995 ono. 07970 592775.

FORD KUGA TITANIUM TDCi, 2010, FSH, 53k, 2 lady owners, excellent condition, £9,000 ono. 07847 468668.

HONDA CIVIC, 2005, 52,574 miles, sh, alarm, air con, MoT June 30, 2016, central locking, alloys, very reliable car, £1,950 ono. 07521 209821.

NISSAN D22 2.5Di, 4x4 Navara, 07 reg, 109,000 miles, MoT April 2017, leather, two owners, snug top, reliable car, £3,500 ono. 07950 537120.

NISSAN MICRA AGENTA CVT 2012, 10,600 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, air con, fish, long MoT, auto, metallic paint, central locking, stereo, CD, spots. £5,950. 07940 829278.

PEUGEOT 207S HDI 3-dr hatchback, 1.6 diesel, grey, 58 reg, MoT November, 10 service stamps, 1 former owner, £30 tax, well looked after. £1,995 ono. 07949 990640.

PEUGEOT 307 automatic, 2007, 30,000 miles, MoT May 2017, grey, excellent condition, £2,289 ono. 07830 625651.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Estate Club, 1.6 very good condition, 2 owners, silver, £2,300. 07966 745797.

VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI CD TI COUPE DIESEL 55 plate, full MoT, silver, 3 owners, excellent condition, £2,300. 07789 883224.

12 months MoT, EW, 05 plate, for disabled use, immaculate condition, 1400cc, 61,000 miles, windows all round, alarm. £1,700 ono. 01384 457219. 07923 191378.

VW EOS

Convertible, 2.0 diesel, auto, facelift model 2010 60 reg, metallic black with red heated leather, new MoT, FSH, only 1 previous owner, new tyres, battery, service.

£5,999 no offers.

07877 055652.

classic cars

WANTED CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT 300 LWB, TD, 2003, MoT, Tidy, £1,495. 07768 841491.

TOYOTA HI-LUX INVINCIBLE Double cab, 2004, black leather interior, 93,000 miles. £4,700. 07949 974325.

VAUXHALL CORSA VAN Ecoflex, 1300 CDTI, 2007, 86,000 miles, FSH, 7 months MoT. Two owners from new. First to see will buy. Immaculate in/out. £2,000 ono. 07872 949729.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADDITIONAL: Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 590066 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

YAMAHA YBR 125cc, A1 Condition, new battery, 900 miles from new, immaculate, £1,650. o.v.n.o. 07568 590216.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/motors for cash.

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TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
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WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

A1 AUTOS WANTED
CARS, VANS, 4x4s, SCRAP
MoT FAILURES, ANY CONDITION
£50-£10,000
WE BUY QUALITY USED CARS
07527 303 336
(24/7, any area) T&C Apply

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash. Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.

01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 587035.

9
Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg** on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10
Personals

personal

Angels
The largest adult supervised in the Midlands
Adult Only - Entry Level
Unit 3 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 0NE
01922 635544

Angels

FEMALE - YOUNG 51

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Introducing Seat's new SUV

Following the huge success of its latest UK marketing initiative to tap into the British psyche and discover the perfect recipe for a compact SUV, Seat is now able to confirm pricing and specification for its new Ateca First Edition.

Created purely as a one-off launch trim level, exclusively for the extremely well-specified and striking First Edition is assured, with just 200 examples destined for UK retail buyers.

Seat has taken its time with its first-ever SUV, to create what it believes is the best car of its ilk to live with everyday. So, in an effort to match Ateca to the needs of British buyers as closely as possible, it ran an online 'lifestyle configurator' on its website, to seek crowd-sourced information upon

which to base an ideal specification. Smashing its internal forecasts and no doubt testament to the growing buzz surrounding Ateca, over the course of six weeks close to 13,000 Brits took part in the competition, which included a top prize of an all-expenses paid family trip to Barcelona, Seat's home city.

Responding to a series of seven questions about their lifestyles and character, with 192 possible outcomes, the online system then generated an Ateca version to suit their specific needs. The most popular proved to be 'Horizon Chaser'.

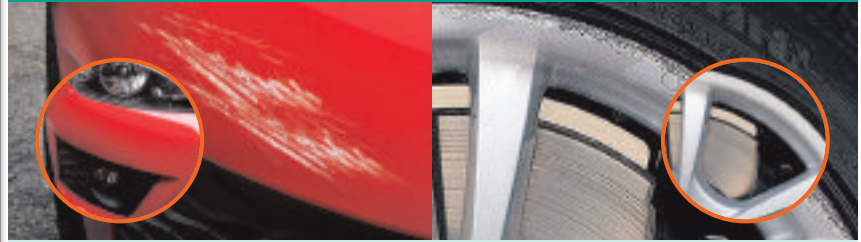
Translating it into a UK production car has led to the following items of standard equipment being included: 18-inch bi-colour alloy wheels, satellite-navigation system with an eight-inch touchscreen, Keyless entry (KES-

SY), electric tailgate with virtual pedal, rear parking sensors with rear view camera, dark-tinted rear windows, black roof rails and window surrounds. Slotting into the Ateca range above SE and below the flagship XCELLENCE, the high-spec new First Edition offers more than £3,500 of additional equipment over the former, saving customers over £1,100.

The First Edition is available in two engines, 1.0 TSI 115PS and 1.6 TDI 115 PS, and is competitively priced at £21,995 and £24,305 respectively. It comes in a choice of three colours, Nevada White, Rodium Grey and Samoa Orange.

Priced from £17,990, the eagerly-awaited Ateca range will be available to pre-order from now ahead of official showroom launch on September 9.

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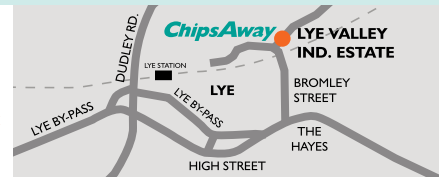
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THE GREAT SALE WEEKEND

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2011/11	Corsa Excite 1.2 Ac 3dr Black 41000 miles	£5,295
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2010/10	Astra Sxi 5dr Silver 29092 miles	£5,495
2011/61	Corsa Exclusiv 1.4 Ac 5dr Silver 34800 miles	£5,791
2009/09	Agila Club Auto Blue 37207 miles	£5,791
2011/61	Corsa Se 1.4 5dr Black 22800 miles	SOLD
2012/62	Corsa Active Ac White 18423 miles	£5,995
2012/62	Corsa Active Ac 3dr Silver 29036 miles	£5,995
2013/13	Corsa Exclusiv 1.2 Ac 5dr Grey 42860 miles	£5,999
2010/10	Meriva Se Turbo 118 Grey 20000 miles	£5,999
2010/60	Astra Exclusiv 113 5dr Silver 54000 miles	£5,999
2012/12	Meriva Exclusiv Ac 5dr Blue 23737 miles	£6,295
2013/13	Corsa Energy 1.2 Ac 3dr Blue 17847 miles	£6,491
2013/63	Corsa Energy Ac 3dr Red 5839 miles	£6,491
2013/63	Corsa HAT 1.2i VVT Energy 5dr Pepperdust 10475 miles	£6,791
2014/64	Corsa HAT 1.2 70ps SE 3dr Blue 6725 miles	£6,991
2013/13	Corsa Se 1.4 5dr Grey 12023 miles	£6,999
2013/63	Corsa Energy 1.4 Ac 5dr Brown 20995 miles	£7,491
2013/13	Meriva Exclusive 5dr Grey 20247 miles	£7,495
2013/13	Corsa Se Auto 1.4 5dr Red 21377 miles	£7,791
2014/64	Corsa Limited Edition 1.2 3dr Black 13327 miles	£7,999
2013/63	Astra Energy 1.6 5dr Blue 23302 miles	SOLD
2013/13	Astra 1.4i VVT 100ps Energy Sovereign 5dr 3601 miles	£8,491
2012/12	Astra Gtc Sri Cdti S/S Black 52000 miles	£8,495
2013/63	Astra Energy 1.6 5dr Silver 21450 miles	£8,991
2013/13	Astra Sri Cdti Ecoflex S/S Red 32625 miles	SOLD
2014/14	Astra 1.4i Energy Sovereign 5dr 6925 miles	£8,991
2015/15	Viva SI Red 7963 miles	£9,495
2015/15	Combo 2300 L1H1 Cdti Ss E Star Silver 1073 miles	£9,500+VAT
2015/15	Astra Sri 1.4 (100ps) 5dr Silver 16813 miles	SOLD
2015/15	Corsa Se 1.2 5dr Green 9058 miles	£9,495
2015/15	Corsa 1.2 Excite Ac 5dr Royal Blue 12000 miles	£9,495
2015/15	Corsa Se Ecoflex 1.4 5dr Red 16062 miles	£9,495
2015/15	Corsa Se Ecoflex 1.4 5dr Silver 16033 miles	£9,791
2012/62	Insignia Sri Nav Cdti 5dr prk Silver 28111 miles	£9,991
2014/14	Insignia Sri 1.8 5dr Grey 37207 miles	£9,999
2015/15	Corsa Sri Vx-Line 1.4 3dr White 11012 miles	£9,999
2015/15	Corsa Sri Vx-Line S/S 1.4 3dr Black 1077 miles	£9,999
2015/65	Corsa Sri Cdti Ecoflex S/S 5dr Black 5465 miles	£11,495
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2014/14	Zafira Tourer Exclusiv Cd Silver 36094 miles	£12,391
2014/63	Mokka Se Turbo Auto Silver 14400 miles	£12,991
2015/64	Mokka Exclusiv Turbo S/S (140ps) F Blue 20985 miles	£12,991
2015/15	Insignia Design 1.8 Nav Silver 10925 miles	£12,995

2015/15	Mokka Se S/S White 16104 miles	£14,391
2015/15	Mokka Se S/S Black 16395 miles	£14,391
2015/15	Mokka Exclusiv Cdti S/S 1.7 Red 14893 miles	£14,495
2015/15	Mokka Exclusiv Cdti Ecoflex Grey 11744 miles	£14,795
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2012/12	Suzuki Splash Sz2 Red 25514 miles	£5,291
2012/62	Suzuki Sx4 Sz4 Silver 37000 miles	£6,491
2013/63	Suzuki Swift Sz2 Red 10691 miles	£6,495
2014/14	Suzuki Swift Sz3 Grey 8752 miles	SOLD
2015/65	Suzuki Celerio Sz4 Auto White 608 miles	SOLD
2015/15	Suzuki Celerio HAT 1.0 SZ3 Dualjet 5dr Ablaze Red 6382 miles	£7,791
2014/64	Suzuki Swift Sz2 White 4625 miles	£7,891
2013/13	Suzuki Swift Sport Blue 2644 miles	£8,791
2014/14	Suzuki Swift Sport 5dr Silver 29160 miles	SOLD
2015/15	Suzuki Swift Sz4 Auto Black 10516 miles	SOLD
2016/16	Suzuki Swift Sz-L Blue 10 miles	£11,495
2013/63	Suzuki Grand Vitara Sz4 Black 28101 miles	£11,891

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2014/63	Chevrolet Spark 1.0 LS 5dr Ice Silver 2823 miles	£5,291
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2012/61	Seat Ibiza Se Copa White 27000 miles	£6,595
2013/13	Fiat 500 Lounge Rhd 3dr Yellow 14310 miles	SOLD
2013/62	Toyota Yaris Tr Vvt-I 3dr Silver 25444 miles	£7,295
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2014/14	Fiat Punto Jet Black 2 Black 9000 miles	£8,291
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2014/14	Volkswagen Polo Match Edition 5dr Silver 32347 miles	£8,491
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2014/63	Chevrolet Trax Ls Grey 24600 miles	£9,495
2015/65	Ford Fiesta Zetec Turbo Blue 6500 miles	SOLD
2014/14	Trax 5Dr HAT 1.6 115ps LT S/sp Ice Silver 6982 miles	SOLD
2015/15	Nissan Juke Visia Blue 18007 miles	£10,991
2014/64	Renault Clio D-Que M-Nav Energy T Black 9500 miles	£10,999
2013/13	Skoda Yeti Se Plus Tsi S-A Grey 18751 miles	£13,291
2012/62	Chevrolet Captiva Lt Vcdi Auto White 24861 miles	£13,991

Inspired by original Mini, the designer MINI Seven

By James Parker

MINI has launched its latest design model, MINI Seven. Taking its name from the very first Mini, the 1959 Austin Seven, MINI Seven has been developed to showcase both the distinctive style inspired by the original Mini and the current modern values of the brand.

MINI Seven joins the current generation MINI Hatch range in 5-door or 3-door form with specially designed exterior and interior looks unseen before on this generation's model line-up.

MINI Seven is instantly recognisable by its striking MINI Yours body finish which comes as standard in Lapisluxury Blue – the most intensive blue tone ever applied to a MINI. Three other body finishes from the MINI paint range are also available to choose from; Pepper White, Midnight Black and British Racing Green.

A Melting Silver roof and exterior mirror caps come as standard contrasting with the distinctive body finishes.

Exterior

MINI Seven door sill finishers and side scuttles with the MINI Seven logo as well as 17-inch light alloy wheels in exclusive MINI Seven Spoke two-tone design complete the exterior look.

For those wanting to add their own personal style to the exterior design of MINI Seven, bonnet stripes in Melting Silver with surround in Malt Brown are also available as an option.

Inside, the eye-catching design cues continue with sports seats in the fabric/leather finish Diamond Malt Brown, designed exclusively for MINI Seven.

There is also a MINI Seven logo on the central instrument which surrounds the MINI Visual Boost 6.5" colour display which also comes as standard alongside MINI Connected, Bluetooth Handsfree with USB audio, floor mats, MINI Excitement Pack, automatic dual-zone air conditioning and storage compartment pack.

Quality

In addition to the high quality standard equipment offered, MINI Seven has its own bespoke option pack, the MINI Seven Chili.

The MINI Seven Chili offers customers MINI Yours features such as the Lounge Leather Upholstery in Carbon Black and the MINI Yours Steering Wheel in Walk Nappa leather with a waxed hand stitched seam.

The MINI Seven Chili pack also offers additional features which are unique in the small car segment including LED headlights, multifunction controls for the steering wheel and cruise control with brake function.

Additional optional equipment from the MINI range is also available to further customise MINI Seven. This includes the popular panorama glass roof, windscreen heating, front driver and passenger seat heating, the Harmon Kardon hi-fi speaker system as well as MINI Connected XL and MINI Navigation System.

MINI Seven will be have its first UK premiere at Goodwood Festival of Speed on the MINI stand from June 23 to 26 with orders being taken now. Prices start for MINI 3-door Seven from £18,545 on-the-road and from £19,145 for MINI 5-door Seven.

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Cheslyn Hay Table Tennis Club is proving a smash hit as membership figures rise



A smiling Nigel Smith with trophies that he won throughout 2015



Isabel Beastall, aged 11, is a member of the youth team

Quinn and Co serve up up a story of success

SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

HAVING helped more than 300 burgeoning table tennis stars progress, Cheslyn Hay secretary John Quinn is delighted with the impact that the club is making in the local community.

Now with almost 50 members, the Salem Church-based outfit are on an upward spiral, with interest peaking and committed volunteers providing expert coaching.

On top of that, they are doing their bit for those less fortunate than themselves. Quinn revealed that in 10 years they have raised £22,000 for charities worldwide by hosting 12-hour table-tennis marathons, quizzes and horse racing nights.

Quinn has played the game for more than a half-a-century and been involved with the Cheslyn Hay club since its inception in 1974, when they were playing at the old working men's club.

Challenge

"It's fantastic to look back and know that hundreds of kids have come through our youth academy at the club," he said.

"For me, the challenge is to bring all of the youngsters off their computers and Xboxes and get them doing something else. It's extremely social and they're all playing competitive table tennis."

With the help of qualified coach Andrew Beastall, Craig Cartwright and father-and-son duo Martin and Callum Squire, the club has managed to pick itself up after numbers started to dwindle two or three years ago.

Quinn, who last year was presented with a national

award from the English Table Tennis Association for more than 40 years' voluntary service in the game, holds real pride in what they have achieved.

"Andrew has done so, so well to coach the kids," he added. "Some of them had never picked up a table tennis bat in their life. We train many of them from beginners and we've some top young players."

Andrew has been given huge support by Martin and his son Callum, who is taking his coaching awards.

"Then to have someone like Craig, who helps with looking after the place, taking tables up and down, is just great. To see the progress is really fantastic.

"Our venue isn't in the best of conditions but we make the most of what we've got.

"Salem Church is 200-odd years old, we have five tables and even a robot training machine who will serve and play topspin shots.

"Some of them had never picked up a table tennis bat in their life.

"We train many of them from beginners and we've some top young players."

"Things have gone from strength to strength since Andrew has taken over. He brings fun to the sessions and what we have done is unbelievable."

Amy Beastall, aged 15, has been called up to represent Staffordshire and at one point was ranked as high as 40th in the UK.

As well as bringing impressive youngsters through their ranks, the club's first team have also been finding some real form over the past few years.

Nigel Smith, Paul Bishop and Jeff Parkes compete in the Walsall League's Division One after superb double success in Division Two last year.

They finished the season as league champions and picked up the divisional cup. Smith was also successful in the individual category.

"I've been secretary for 25 years and I'm very, very proud," Quinn added. "There are many clubs closing down and we are doing more than surviving.

Content

"I'm just content that if I were to step down then the club would be able to continue to function. We cater for all players and have some kids as young as 10 with some members in their 80s.

"There's no discrimination, it's social and we hope to increase even more."

The club's home match nights take place on Monday and Tuesday nights, with the church also open on those evenings for training sessions from 7-10pm.

They also run youth academy nights on Wednesdays from 6-7.30pm.

The club are keen to encourage sponsorship, with players travelling far afield to compete in a number of competitions.

Anyone interested should contact club secretary John Quinn on 07846 496715.



Talented youngsters practising at the Salem Church-based club



Ready to serve - Kieran Bond, aged 13, who is in the youth team



Heathens survive KO Cup scare

CRADLEY scraped through to the next round of speedway's Knockout Cup with a 46-42 win over Buxton in a dramatic meeting at Monmore on Monday night.

The Motor Market Heathens needed a last-heat decider to claim victory and they certainly made hard work of maintaining their 100 per cent home record.

The visitors stunned Cradley in the opening exchanges as they took advantages of spills from Ben Basford and Luke Chessell. Ex-Heathens Nathan Greaves and Ellis Perks took two of the opening three victories as the guests helped the Hitmen to a 13-5 advantage.

The Heathens struck back with a 5-1 from the gate in heat four courtesy of Max Clegg and James Purchase before a nightmare run for the home side saw them fall further behind. Both Chessell and debutant Layne Cupitt slid off when in comfortable second places either side of Ashley Morris suffering a blown engine while leading a 5-1 in heat six.

The Heathens gradually chipped away at the Hitmen's advantage and three races in favour of the hosts pulled them back to within four. Cupitt could have pulled them even closer had he not slid off when in third places in heats nine and eleven.

Trailing by four with 13 races gone, the Heathens required two heat advantages to secure victory. Chessell and Purchase outgated their opponents and combined for a 5-1 in heat 14 to pull the scores level.

Race of the night fittingly came in heat 15 as the Heathens secured back-to-back maximums to edge through. Max Clegg completed a fine unbeaten night from the gate while Morris hunted Greaves down and timed his move to perfection on the final two bends up the inside. Cradley won 90-86 on aggregate.

The Heathens travel to Mildenhall in the National League on Sunday.

Glassboys skipper commits to club for new campaign

CLUB captain Stuart Pierpoint is among seven players to have committed themselves to Stourbridge FC for the 2016/17 season.

Kristian Green, Joe Hull, Tom Tonks, Leon Broadhurst and Justin Richards have all agreed terms, joining keeper Matt Gould, central defender Dan Scarr and winger Chris Lait, who have already signed contracts.

The Glassboys have, however, lost the services of midfielder Sean Geddes who has opted to re-join Worcester City for a second spell and they are currently awaiting decisions from wide man Matt Dodd and top scorer Karl Hawley.

Stourbridge have moved swiftly to appoint Kieran Bustin as the new manager of their youth team following the departure of Dave King to become Tividale first team.

Former Arsenal and Wolves man Jon Purdie has returned to the club to become the new coach of the youth team. He had successfully fulfilled this role previously before moving on in April 2015 to manage the Bilston Town first team for much of last season.

Seventh heaven for TT racer Rutter



Rutter on the start line

MICHAEL Rutter ended his TT campaign on a high as the week of racing came to a stunning conclusion.

The Brierley Hill-born rider finished the six-lap Senior TT race with a solid seventh place on his BMW 1000RR superbike.

Rutter managed to lap the 37.73-mile course with an average speed of over 129mph during the week's final race, won by Northern Ireland's Michael Dunlop in a record-breaking time.

The result meant he finished sixth

Motorcycling

overall in the Joey Dunlop TT Championship.

Rutter, 44, had already finished 10th in Wednesday's second four-lap supersport race on his 600cc Kawasaki but was unfortunate to break down while running third during the four-lap lightweight race after stepping in for the injured Ryan Farquhar.

Rutter said after the senior: "For the first two laps we were running a

rear tyre with a higher pressure than normal. It made the handling of the bike nowhere near where I needed it to be.

"At the pit stop we switched to a rear with lower pressure, and again at the second pit stop.

Better

"The bike just got better and better," he added. "We were slightly over-gearred so the bike wouldn't pull sixth gear but I'm absolutely over the moon to get another top-10 finish."

Ironman is main event for triathletes

THE favoured race for Black Country Triathletes was the Staffordshire Ironman 70.3. First home for BCT was Chris Wood in 4:51:08 finishing 11th in his age group.

Others taking part were Neil Millward, Neil Howells, Richard Hancher, Keith Bate, who was first in his age group, Tim Blewitt, Matt Price, Paul Gamston, Mark Southall, Martin Dodd, Cheryl Blewitt, James Hayward, Paul Silk, Lee Barker, Pat Hackett, fourth in age group, Kevin Anson and Tim Price. Ed Bolland completed the swim in 29:26 and bike in 2:40:27 but due to injury couldn't finish the run.

Mike Anslow and Andrew Dugmore competed in the Cotswold 113 at the Ashton Keynes water park. In difficult weather conditions, and despite a bike crash and puncture Anslow came home in 4:57:22 and Dugmore in 7:13:20.

Mark Evans and daughter Lauren competed in the standard distance open event as part of the ITU World Triathlon. They finished just a minute apart. Shameer Gopal and Gary Taylor competed in the sprint distance race with their respective children Cian and Leah Gopal and Zak Taylor racing in the junior triathlon races along with Noah Sandland. Reece Ashfield and Zoe Brickley raced in the youth aquathlon and Holly Lewis took a silver medal in her age group from the open aquathlon.

David Nash and Lee Moreton competed in the Deva standard distance race in Chester. Both finished fifth in their age group.

Dave Hathaway took on Ironman Nice, a 2.4 mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and marathon distance run. Chris Wood finished 21st male overall and 10th in his age category in the Bala middle distance triathlon and Gary Bonner was first in his age and 13th overall in The Avenger Standard distance race in Stafford.

Duo in GB shooting paralympics squad

WEST Midlands duo Ryan Cockbill and Richard Davies are heading to their second Paralympic Games after being named in Team GB's shooting squad.

Walsall's Cockbill and Davies, from Stourbridge, are part of the 10-man squad off to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Cockbill - who took up the sport after breaking his neck in a freak paddling pool accident - set a world record in 2013.

Meanwhile, Davies - who was a wheelchair rugby player for 14 years before dedicating himself to shooting - has enjoyed a fine year as he looks to regain his position at the top of the world rankings.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Leicestershire. Thursday, June 16, 2016

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HALES TOLD TO BOUNCE BACK

HALESOWEN skipper Richard Brooker is urging his side to bounce back in Saturday's big home game with Stratford at noon.

Brooker admits it was a weekend to forget for many at the club last week with the first team crashing to Shifnal and slipping to fifth in the table.

Batting first, the firsts were restricted to 87-8 in 33 overs with only Hassan Quami (20) making any significant contribution with the bat.

In reply, Shifnal made light work of passing the total after 21 overs, losing only three wickets along the way.

Brooker said: "This was simply one to forget for us, a bad day at the office.

"It wasn't an easy day to bat with the rain around and coming on and off the field all the time but we just didn't apply ourselves.

Catches

"Every time we resumed batting we gave silly wickets away and the fact that all our dismissals were catches says it all really.

"We've now slipped down to fifth in the table and we need to bounce back quickly on Saturday against Stratford.

"I know we can do it as we have done before when we've really needed to step it up this season."

The second team game was almost a carbon copy as they were bowled out for 114 and Shifnal needed just 24 overs to pass the target.

They're now ninth and they clearly need some front line seam bowlers back in the side as soon as possible.

One positive from the game was the appearance of 15-year-old Nathan Hines who opened up with the new ball and club officials regard him as one to watch for the future.

The thirds lost at Claverley in a high scoring game with the home side hitting 229-2 and Halesowen were than bowled out for 191.

This Saturday sees the firsts face Stratford at home, the seconds head to Brockhampton, the thirds are at home to Hanley Castle with the reverse fixture for the fourths.

Charlotte serves up a bronze



Charlotte Bardsley, of Stourbridge, in table tennis action

STOURBRIDGE ace Charlotte Bardsley proved a smash hit as she helped England to win a team bronze medal at the Cadet Six Nations competition in France.

The 13-year-old joined Mollie Patterson, Gauri Duhan and Denise Payet to take on teams from Germany, Sweden, Denmark and two from hosts France.

They beat France B and Germany 6-4 and

Denmark 10-0 and lost 6-4 to champions France A. A 5-5 draw with Sweden meant the two nations finished with seven points, and Sweden edged the silver medals on countback, with 378 points to England's 361.

In the individual events, Heathfield School pupil Bardsley won two out of five matches to finish fifth in her group, missing out on a quarter-final place.

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Friday & Saturday - 9.00am - 5.00pm

All enquiries to **Oliver Watchorn**
07850 742961

- Beauty
- Books
- Cafe
- Clothing & Footwear
- Confectionery
- Cosmetics
- Craft supplies
- Electrical & DIY
- Fishing Supplies

- Florist
- Food & Drink
- Greetings cards
- Homeware & Household
- Jewellery & Accessories
- Mobility products
- Music & Video
- Pet supplies
- Toys & Stationery

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